

Volume 10 • Issue 2
April, 2010

GALT. Connections

A City Working For You!

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Special Dates

April 6 th	City Council Meeting
April 8 th	Planning Commission Meeting
April 14 th	Parks & Recs Commission Meeting
April 17 th	Hazardous Waste Drop Off
April 17 th	Shred It Event
April 20 th	City Council Meeting
May 4 th	City Council Meeting
May 13 th	Planning Commission Meeting
May 18 th	City Council Meeting
May 31 st	Holiday Memorial Day

Pay Your Utility Bill Online!

Access your utility account online at www.ci.galt.ca.us and use your Master Card, Visa, or personal check to pay your City of Galt bill - no additional charges apply.

To begin your online service, you will need a copy of your bill and your cycle route number which can be obtained by contacting the Finance Department during regularly scheduled business hours at (209) 366-7150, press -0- for customer service and ask for the "cycle route" on your account.

Click the "online payments" button of the City's website to get started!



New Business Hours Effective Monday, April 12, 2010

The City has been working diligently over the past several months to develop a cost reduction program to help balance the City's budget without significantly impacting the services provided to the community and avoiding employee layoffs. The City was recently able to reach agreement with all of its employee groups to save money through the implementation of a furlough program and 9/80 work schedule. Employees have agreed to take 11 unpaid furlough days between now and June 30, 2011. The City will also begin implementing a 9/80 plan where employees work longer days but receive every other Friday off. In order to provide further savings to the City and to maintain a fixed schedule of office hours for the public, City offices will be closed every Friday. The new office hours, effective April 12, 2010, are as follows:

City Hall and Parks and Recreation offices will be open 8:00am to 5:30pm Monday through Thursday. These offices are currently open from 9:00am to 5:00pm. These new extended hours will improve public accessibility to City services by extending City hours for citizens to come in before or after work to sign up for recreation classes, pay utility bills and conduct other city business.

The Municipal Services Center, located on Industrial Drive, will be open 7:30am to 5:30pm Monday through Thursday.

The Police Department hours will not change and will continue to be open Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm.

The City will save approximately \$400,000 in employment costs with this plan. In addition, it is anticipated the compressed work week will help the City "Go Green" by reducing the City's carbon footprint and reduce energy costs by powering down lights, fans, computers, and air conditioning on Fridays, which is a further cost savings. Many other local agencies, including Tracy, Manteca, Stockton and Lathrop, have adopted similar schedules and have reported a positive response from employees and citizens.

For a complete listing of the City of Galt's new business hours and furlough schedule, please visit the City's official website at www.ci.galt.ca.us.



United States Census 2010

The foundation of our American democracy is dependent on fair and equitable representation in Congress. In order to achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within the nation's borders, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years.

The census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities will receive over the course of the decade. 2010 census data will directly affect how more than \$4 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years. In order for this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place. The facts gathered in the census also help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services and much more.

Reaching an Increasingly Diverse Population

The goal of the 2010 census is to count all residents living in the United States on April 1, 2010. The Census Bureau does not ask about the legal status of residents in any of its surveys and census programs. To help ensure the nation's increasingly diverse population can answer the questionnaire accurately and completely, about 13 million bilingual Spanish/English forms will be mailed to housing units in neighborhoods identified as requiring high levels of Spanish assistance. Additionally, questionnaires in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Russian - as well as language guides in 59 languages - will be available on request.

10 Questions, 10 Minutes to Complete

With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. Questions about how we live as a nation - our diversity, education, housing, jobs and more - are now covered in the American Community Survey, which is conducted every year throughout the decade and replaces the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaires are required by law. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential. For more information, visit the 2010 Census Website at <http://www.census.gov/2010>.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Mosquitoes will be Buzzing this Spring!

Home Foreclosures and Neglected Swimming Pools Continue to be a Problem

It's that time of year again, longer days, warm spring temperatures and... mosquitoes! That's right, mosquito season is back and to kick it off, the California State Legislature has declared April 26-30th as Mosquito and West Nile Virus Awareness Week.

Of special concern in our area are the high numbers of foreclosed homes and neglected swimming pools. Pools that are not maintained grow algae and bacteria and become fertile breeding grounds for mosquitoes. With warmer weather approaching, one neglected swimming pool can produce millions of mosquitoes and infect an entire neighborhood putting you and your family at risk for West Nile Virus.

What should I do if someone I know has a neglected swimming pool?

Call the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District at (800) 429-1022 to report the property.

Other Spring Mosquito Prevention Tips Include:

- Reduce any stagnant or standing water around your home that may become a fertile breeding ground for mosquitoes.
- At least once a week, walk around your property and check for any containers that may collect water. Empty all buckets, flower pots, children's toys, cans or wheel barrows.
- Mosquitoes grow in wet and clogged street gutters. Do not over water your lawn and please utilize yard waste containers for grass clippings and other debris.
- Change water in pet dishes and bird baths frequently.
- Stock ornamental ponds, fountains and animal water troughs with mosquitofish.
- Dispose of old tires in your back yard. These create ideal habitats for mosquitoes.
- Drain water from pool and boat covers. Keep hot tubs or spas clean or covered.



For more information call (800) 429-1022 or visit www.FIGHTtheBITE.net!

SHRED IT!

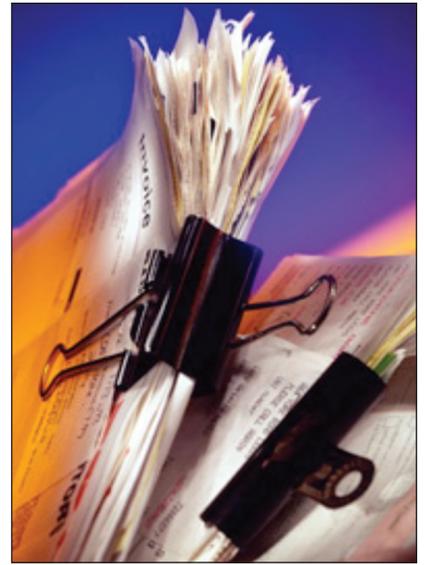
Protect Your Personal Information

April 17th • 9:00am - 1:00pm • Galt Market

Private information isn't limited to bank statements, tax returns and legal documents and contracts. Printed confidential materials are produced daily from medical records to planning documents. As the fastest-growing form of fraud, identity theft threatens to destroy personal credit ratings as well as reputation and security. Governments and regulators around the world continue to develop legislation to help protect individuals but prevention is the best solution.

You can bring up to three file boxes full of documents to shred, or one garbage bag full of documents.

You must be a resident of the City of Galt (residing within the city limits). Please bring proof of residency or a utility statement.



For your convenience, both of these events will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 9:00am to 1:00pm at the Galt Market.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

April 17th • 9:00am - 1:00pm • Galt Market

Items to be collected for the household hazardous waste event include used oil, automotive fluids, batteries, pesticides, fertilizers, pool chemicals, solvents, used sharps, fluorescent tubes, medications, paint and old household cleaners. Tires are also accepted, but are limited to passenger vehicle size. You must be a resident of the City of Galt (residing within the city limits). Please bring proof of residency or a utility statement.



Bulky Waste Collection

As a reminder, each residence can receive Bulky Waste Collection Service up to two (2) times in 2010 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.

You can get more information about this collection service online at www.cal-waste.com/newsletter/newsletter.pdf.

Slow Down for the Construction Zone! Galt Place Senior Apartments Mixed Use Development

Construction for the Galt Place project is underway! Galt Place is an exciting new project to be built at 4th Street in Old Town 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. Traffic along 4th street may be diverted for construction of the project. Construction is expected to be completed in Spring, 2011.



Capital Improvement Project Updates

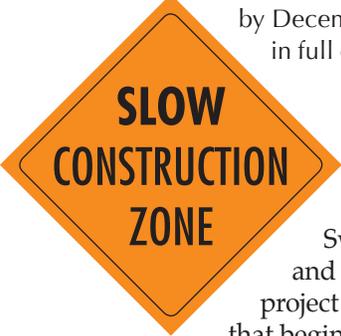
Arsenic Improvements

The first phase of arsenic improvements is complete. All active City wells are now in compliance with the new Arsenic Rule except one, the Golden Heights Well. Use of this well is being limited now that the Monterey Bay well has been permitted. Improvements to the Golden Heights Water Treatment Plant are expected to be complete by December 2010, which will put the City in full compliance with the Arsenic Rule.

Lincoln Way Parking Lot

The Lincoln Way parking lot is now open and available for use by local businesses. Although essentially completed with lighting, landscape, curbing and aggregate base in January, it was not until a break in rainstorms in February that the City's contractor was able to pave the new lot.

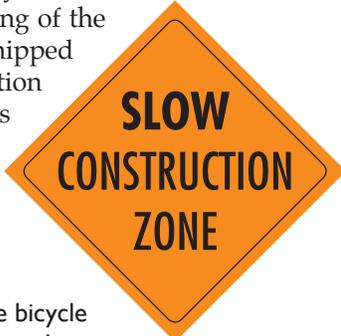
Remaining final touches include parking and handicapped stall striping, wheel stop installation and SMUD service line modifications. Rehabilitation of the adjacent alleyway between Lincoln Way and Market Street will be completed when the weather improves.



**SLOW
CONSTRUCTION
ZONE**

Central Galt Interchange Project

Work on the interchange has begun with the removal of approximately 495 trees from within the footprint of the new interchange project before the beginning of the Swainson's Hawk migratory season. All wood material was either reused or chipped and sent to a co-generation plant to produce electrical energy. The actual construction project is scheduled to begin in August after the bidding and contract award process that begins in April.



**SLOW
CONSTRUCTION
ZONE**

Northeast Stockton Boulevard Bicycle Lane Connection Improvements

Scheduled to begin in summer 2010, the Northeast Stockton Bicycle Lane Connection Project will improve bicycle safety by widening roadways and installing bike lanes along portions of East Stockton Boulevard between Walnut Avenue and Adare Way and south of the intersection with Twin Cities Road. The project will also add Class II Bicycle lane striping and signage along E. Stockton Boulevard from Walnut Avenue onto Twin Cities Road.



Carillion Boulevard / Twin Cities Road Signal

After lengthy delays due to inclement weather and needed utility relocations, the traffic signal improvements are now operational.

Walker Community Park

Inclement weather continues to delay grading and construction of Walker Park. The playground equipment has been received and is being stored. Construction is anticipated to restart in April.

Twin Cities Road At State Route 99 Improvements

Preliminary design work, including traffic projections and studies' is underway to relieve congestion and improve pedestrian and bicycle access at the two signalized intersection on Twin Cities Road with East and West Stockton Boulevards. One of the alternates being studied is the use of modern day roundabouts to replace the existing signals. An informational meeting was conducted in January and was well attended by Galt residents. A second informational meeting is planned for mid-year 2010. Design and environmental studies will continue throughout 2010. The start of construction is planned for Spring 2012 and should be completed in approximately one year.

Railroad Pedestrian Safety Crossing

The Railroad Pedestrian Safety Crossing Project is scheduled to be advertised for bid and awarded by City Council in April 2010. The work will improve pedestrian crossing conditions at the UPRR tracks near Carillion Boulevard, Elm Avenue at Industrial Drive, Elm Avenue at McFarland Street, A Street, C Street, and F Street. Construction is anticipated to begin mid summer 2010.

Deadman's Gulch Trail Connection

The City of Galt received a \$100,000 Community Design Grant to construction a pedestrian crossing to extend the pathways along Deadman's Gulch across Carillion Boulevard. The location is on Carillion Boulevard, approximately 400 feet south of the Carillion Boulevard and Walnut Avenue intersection.

Proposed improvements include installation of midblock ramps, a texture asphalt pathway, flashing beacons, and in-road warning lights to provide a high visibility pedestrian crossing of Carillion as an alternative to the culvert crossings installed under the roadway. Construction is expected to begin late summer 2010.

Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation is everyone's responsibility. Using water efficiently in our daily lives will help protect our water supplies for current as well as future needs. The City of Galt pumps water from deep wells throughout our City. Water demand in the summer months quadruples due to the increased water consumption from watering of lawns and swimming pools. Here are a few tips that can help to conserve water.

- Avoid over-watering that causes water to run off down the gutter.
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways rather than hosing them off.
- Shut off sprinklers during and following rain periods.
- Visually inspect your sprinkler system once a month. Check for broken or missing sprinklers. If you water late night or early morning you may not notice sprinkler problems.
- Water landscaping in cycles by reducing the number of minutes on your timer, and use multiple start times. This will allow water to soak in rather than running off.
- When manually watering with a hose and sprinkler, set a timer to remind you when to move the sprinkler or turn the water off.
- Running your clothes washing machine and dish washer only when they are full can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

Please call the Public Works Department at 209-366-7260 for additional information.



Have A Safe Spring And Summer!

With longer days and sunshine right around the corner, our schools, parks and city neighborhoods will become more active with residents enjoying the weather. Part of enjoying the longer days is knowing how to reduce the chances of becoming a victim of a crime.

While you open the blinds and the windows and let the spring air come in, the inside of your house may be visible to anyone who comes to your home, walks by or drives down the street. Be smart about exposing the inside of your home. Walk down your driveway and look at your home with your blinds and windows open and see if you can spot your TV, stereo system, computer, where you hang the car keys or any other valuables. If you can see them from the street, know that a criminal can also see them. If a residential burglary occurs in your neighborhood, that criminal may have seen inside of your home if the blinds or windows were open.

Burglars will sometimes walk and/or drive through a neighborhood to see who comes and goes or who leaves a house exposed. If you have valuables in the garage, do not leave the garage open unless you are in there. Auto burglaries are the same. If you leave your wallet, laptop, expensive watch, or the mail you picked up within view inside of your vehicle, it is now accessible to anyone walking by. It only takes seconds for someone to break into your vehicle and walk away with your valuables. Secure your vehicle at all times.

Secure all windows, doors, and garage access when you leave your home, even if you are only gone for 10 minutes, which is all the time it takes for a criminal to walk in and out of your home with valuables. Make sure to take the same approach when you are out shopping. Secure your vehicle, know your surroundings and park your vehicle so you are visible to other customers and people in the stores. At night it is recommended you park near a well lit area.

General Information About Gangs

In all communities across the US, gang activity can increase in the spring and early summer due to the longer days. Knowing how you can reduce gang activity in your area is vital to creating a peaceful neighborhood. The first step in combating gang activity is awareness. Citizens armed with knowledge can help prevent gang activity in our community. The following information will answer some questions you may have about gangs and gang activity in the City of Galt.

What is a Gang?

Gangs identify with names, colors, and language or hand signs. They also have a common philosophy: to commit crime for the advancement of their group. You will see like behavior and common dress codes amongst gang members. Most gang members will move in groups while on foot in your neighborhood. Many gang members are involved in illegal activity that includes residential burglaries, auto burglaries, graffiti, fighting, loitering or drug sales. Knowing who belongs in your neighborhood is vital to reducing the possibility of you or your neighbor becoming a victim of a crime.

How to help reduce Criminal activity in your neighborhood?

If you have any information regarding criminal or gang activity, please call the Galt Police Department at **(209) 366-7000**. If you wish to remain anonymous you may call the Galt Area Crime Stoppers at **(888) 393-8477 (TIPS)**.

You may also contact Galt Police Department Crime Prevention Coordinator TJ Guidotti at **(209) 366-7000**, or by email at tjguidotti@galtpd.com.

Parks & Recreation Department

City Tots Preschool Program

Registration for the 2010-2011 City Tots Preschool Program will begin for the public on Tuesday, June 1st. The class year is from August 30, 2010 until May 20, 2011. This program is available to 3-year-olds (must be 3 by December 2, 2010) and 4-year-olds (must be 4 by December 2, 2010).

The 3-year-old class will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30am to 10:30am.

There are two 4-year-old classes to choose from:

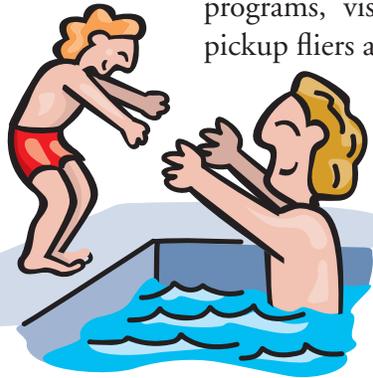
- The early class will be held Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7:30am to 10:30am.
- The second class will be held Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11:00am to 2:00pm.

A 3-year-old and 4-year-old split class will also be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00am until 2:00pm.

For more information, please call 366-7180.

Gora Aquatic Center

The Gora Aquatic Center is accepting registrations for most aquatics programs. Programs include the Galt Gators Recreational Swim Team, Swim Lessons, and Lifeguard Training. For more information on these programs, visit the City's website (www.ci.galt.ca.us) or pickup fliers at the Parks and Recreation office.



All registrations are currently taking place at the Parks and Recreation Department located at 610 Chabolla Avenue (Mondays through Thursdays from 8:00am until 5:30pm).

The Aquatic Center will officially open for the 2010 Season on Saturday, May 22nd.

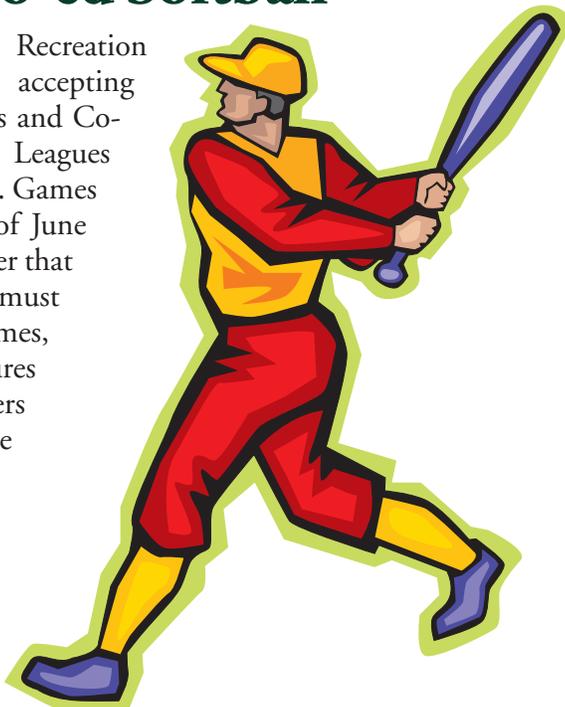
2010 Earth Day & Creek Week

The Annual Earth Day Event will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 9:00am until 11:00am at the Galt Community Park located at Walnut and Carillion. In conjunction with Earth Day, the City will be acknowledging Creek Week.

Please contact Parks & Recreation at 366-7180 or Volunteer Coordinator Sabra Ambrose at 745-2508 if you or your organization would like to participate. Participants will be given a free T-shirt.

Men's & Co-ed Softball

The Parks and Recreation office will be accepting applications for Men's and Co-Ed Summer Softball Leagues now through June 1st. Games will begin the week of June 14th. Please remember that all application forms must be completed (names, addresses and signatures from all players included) with the full payment in order to be submitted to the Parks and Recreation office. For more information, call 366-7180.



Galt Certified Farmers' Market

The Certified Farmers' Market is returning for its 3rd Season in Galt. The location will be on Lincoln Way between A and C Streets at the City's new parking lot.

The Market will take place on Thursday evenings commencing June 3rd and concluding September 30th. Hours of operation will be from 5:00pm to 8:00pm.

Please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 366-7180 for more information.



Grants from the California Energy Commission

Funded Through the Federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act

In late 2009, the California Energy Commission offered several grant opportunities in the State Energy Program and the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant Program which are both funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. These grant funds were eligible to local governments for energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy, and other energy related projects and activities.

The City of Galt participated in several collaborative grant applications and was successful in receiving grant funding for the following innovative programs:

CaliforniaFIRST (AB 811) Financing Program Approved for Galt Citizens

The City of Galt has made it possible for property owners within the City limits to participate in the Pilot Program for the innovative CaliforniaFIRST Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program (AB 811) when it launches in the summer of 2010. This program will allow property owners to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements on their existing residences or commercial buildings and pay it back through their property tax assessments. The property owner would install the identified improvement such as insulation, attic venting, and solar panels, and realize the immediate cost savings to their energy bill. If the owner sells the house or business before the assessment is paid off, the monthly energy cost savings are simply passed to the next owner along with that property assessment.

The City of Galt is excited to offer this program to its citizens. CaliforniaFIRST will provide all necessary administrative and financial services for participating cities and counties, but property owners are welcome to visit the City's website for more information or to sign up for e-mail notifications until the program begins to accept applications in summer, 2010. Interested parties may also visit the official CaliforniaFIRST website at <http://www.californiafirst.org> or contact Sandra Kiriu, Principal Planner at 209-366-7230 or skiriu@ci.galt.ca.us for further information.

Streetlights to Receive LED Energy Retrofits

The City of Galt received \$133,736 in grant funds to replace 66-100 existing high pressure sodium streetlight fixtures with high efficiency, long life, Light Emitting Diode (LED) fixtures.

This project will take place in the summer of 2011 and will start on Lincoln Way between approximately Simmerhorn Road and Meladee Lane.

If funding permits, additional streetlight fixtures on F Street will be replaced from Lincoln Way westward.



Galt Homeowners Will Soon Have a New Way to Cut Energy Bills

Galt customers of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) will soon be learning a lot about improving the energy efficiency of their homes. In a collaborative regional effort led by SMUD, the City of Galt is part of the Sacramento Regional Energy Alliance, a consortium of local governments, educational institutions, government agencies, non-profits and private companies who was awarded a \$20 million State Energy Program grant to promote and implement a new way of improving energy efficiency—the whole-house retrofit approach. The program will be administered by SMUD with local assistance from members of the consortium. Grant funding will be used to:

- **Help retrofit homes through the Whole House Performance program with a goal of 30 percent average savings for each home using a variety of energy efficient improvements and SMUD rebate incentives;**
- **Implement a neighborhood approach to home retrofits by selecting neighborhoods with groups of homes having similar characteristics and offering energy efficiency packages at volume-discount prices.**
- **Pilot a comprehensive multi-family retrofit model providing incentives to building owners with a goal of 20 percent savings. Moderate-to-low-income tenant buildings will be targeted;**
- **Provide basic audits to select homes and encourage deeper participation in SMUD's whole-house programs such as ENERGY STAR appliance purchases, building envelope sealing and air conditioning replacements;**
- **Retain and create jobs by coordinating with Los Rios Community College District to develop a SMUD green academy, training contractors in auditing skills, building performance science and more.**

This program will be implemented in early summer, 2010. Stay tuned for more information! Residents may also be eligible to concurrently take advantage of an innovative new financing program called CaliforniaFIRST whereby these eligible energy efficiency improvements can be financed on a resident's property taxes so the debt burden is on the property rather than the individual and the debt obligation is transferred upon sale of the home. Call Sandra Kiriu, Principal Planner, at 366-7230 for further details or contact SMUD to learn more.

Unclaimed Property

Each year various checks become stale dated if they remain uncashed after six (6) months from the date of issuance. A list of these items can be found on the City of Galt's web site at www.ci.galt.ca.us, link to the Finance Department, Unclaimed Property.

Download and complete the "Request For Replacement of Lost, Stolen or Stale Dated Check" form and bring to the Finance Department, 380 Civic Drive. Identification will be required when submitting this form.

A copy of the Unclaimed Property List and form are available at the City Clerk's office as well.

All 2009 Business Licenses Have Expired

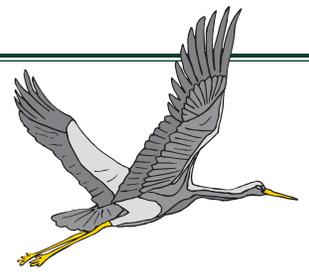
Individual renewal notices were mailed November 2009 followed by a final notice in February. The business license fee for January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 is as follows:

- **First owner or employee** \$40.00
- **Each additional employee** \$10.00
- **20% Penalty** (10% January + 10% February)

If you did 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.

Attention Rental Property Owners

Owners of rental property, including a single family residential unit, located within the city limits of Galt are required to procure a City of Galt business license. To apply for or renew your business license please contact the City of Galt Finance Department at (209) 366-7158. For your convenience, an application can be obtained on the City of Galt website at www.ci.galt.ca.us.



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
8:00am to 5:30pm
Monday thru Thursday

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



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For You!**

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