

Volume 9 • Issue 2  
April, 2009

# GALT. Connections

*A City Working For You!*

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## Special Dates

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| April 7 <sup>th</sup>                     | City Council Meeting                  |
| April 9 <sup>th</sup>                     | Planning Commission Meeting           |
| April 15 <sup>th</sup>                    | Parks & Recs Park Master Plan Meeting |
| April 18 <sup>th</sup>                    | Hazardous Waste Drop Off              |
| April 21 <sup>st</sup>                    | City Council Meeting                  |
| April 25 <sup>th</sup>                    | Shred It Event                        |
| April 25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> | Arbor Day Weekend Events              |
| May 5 <sup>th</sup>                       | City Council Meeting                  |
| May 19 <sup>th</sup>                      | City Council Meeting                  |
| May 25 <sup>th</sup>                      | Holiday Memorial Day                  |

# SHRED IT!

## Protect Your Personal Information

April 25th • 9:00am - 1:00pm • Galt Market Grounds

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.

Please bring your documents to the Galt Market grounds on Saturday, April 25th from 9:00am until 1:00pm. 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.

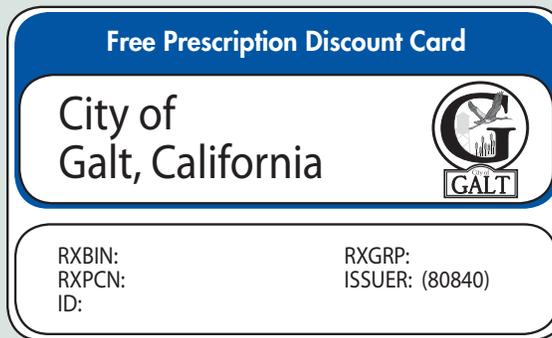


## Free Prescription Discount Card

Start saving on prescriptions today! This prescription discount card is brought to you by the City of Galt in collaboration with the National League of Cities. By using this card, you have access to nine out of 10 participating pharmacies across the country and can save an average of 20% off the regular retail price of prescription drugs.

You and your family may use your discount card anytime your prescription is not covered by insurance. There are no restrictions and no limits on how many times you may use your card.

You can pick-up your free discount card in the city clerk's office.



## Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

The next Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off event will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009, from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Galt Market. Items to be collected include used oil, automotive fluids, batteries, pesticides, fertilizers, 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.



## Bulky Waste Collection

As a reminder, each residence can receive Bulky Waste Collection Service up to two (2) times in 2009 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.

Visit their website for more details at <http://cal-waste.com/newsletter/SummerNewsletter.pdf>.

# Report Neglected Swimming Pools and Other Mosquito Problems!

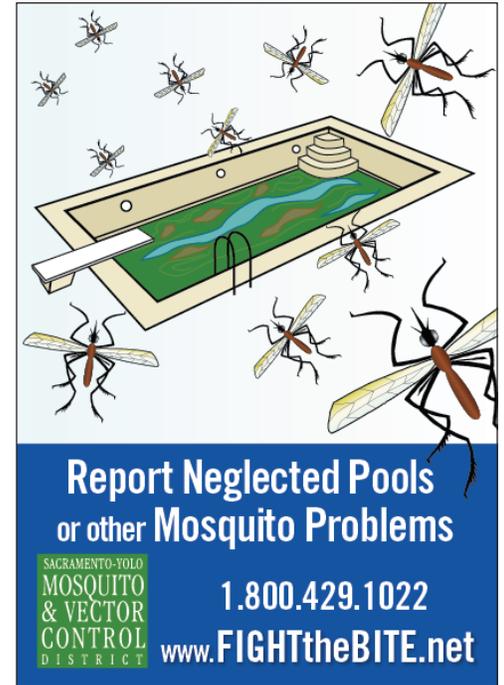
Depressed housing markets and foreclosures have led to many neglected swimming pools in our area. Pools that are not maintained grow algae and bacteria and are fertile breeding grounds for mosquitoes. With warm spring temperatures approaching, one neglected swimming pool can produce millions of mosquitoes 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 1-800-429-1022 to report the property.

## What can the local mosquito control district do?

- Work with a realtor, or property owner if necessary
- Place mosquitofish in the pool to eat the mosquito larvae
- Put a product in the pool that inhibits or kills the larvae
- Help you decide how to manage the pool so no more mosquitoes are produced



Please note that these actions stop mosquito production, however the pool water may remain dirty and dark until it is properly filtered and chemically maintained. During this time, it is very important to NOT add chlorine to the water because this kills the mosquitofish and allows mosquitoes to re-infest the pool.

For more information call 1-800-429-1022 or visit [www.FIGHTtheBITE.net](http://www.FIGHTtheBITE.net).

# Galt's Stimulus Program

The City of Galt is looking at its own plan to stimulate the local economy to help preserve local businesses and jobs. A policy, "local preference" will be proposed at the April Council Meeting. The staff will be looking at purchasing materials and supplies from local merchants first. Because the City is spending taxpayers' money, they must look at how much preference they can give local businesses.

The City, Chamber of Commerce, and local merchants are also asking local citizens to consciously buy their gas and other merchandise and services from local merchants. Here are 10 good reasons why...

## 10 BIG REASONS TO SHOP AT HOME!

- 1) **YOUR TAX BILL.** When you shop in local stores, part of every dollar goes to pay your local tax bill... leaving less for you to pay toward their cost.
- 2) **SELECTION.** You determine what services are available locally. If there is a demand for a product or service, local businesses are glad to provide them.
- 3) **EMPLOYMENT.** Hometown businesses employ local residents... creating jobs for you, your children, and neighbors.
- 4) **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.** Every dollar you spend at home does the work of \$7<sup>00</sup>. A dollar spent out of town is gone forever.
- 5) **QUALITY MERCHANDISE.** When you buy a product locally, you know the reputation of the business.
- 6) **COMMUNITY INTEREST.** Local merchants support the interests of your children and grandchildren.
- 7) **SAVE MONEY.** You save time and gas by purchasing locally rather than driving many miles.
- 8) **VARIETY OF MERCHANDISE.** If your local merchant does not have what you're looking for, ask him or her to order it.
- 9) **PERSONAL SERVICE.** Often local merchants know their customers and can assist in selecting a gift.
- 10) **WE CARE ABOUT OUR CUSTOMERS.** When you shop locally, you know you are not just another face in the crowd.



# Upcoming Retail Projects...

## Galt Place Senior Apartments and Mixed Use Development

Ground breaking for Galt Place is expected in the summer of 2009. 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.

## Carillion Corners Shopping Center

The Tractor Supply Company is open for business. The Rite Aid building is complete and scheduled to open in April 2009. Both stores are located at the Carillion Corners Shopping Center which is located on 10 acres at the southwest corner of Twin Cities Road and Carillion Boulevard.

In addition to the Tractor Supply Company and Rite Aid, other businesses include a Pappa Murphy's Pizza (a take and bake pizza restaurant), OP Nails and Spa, and a Fresh & Easy store. 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.

## Galt Shopping (Stop & Shop) Center

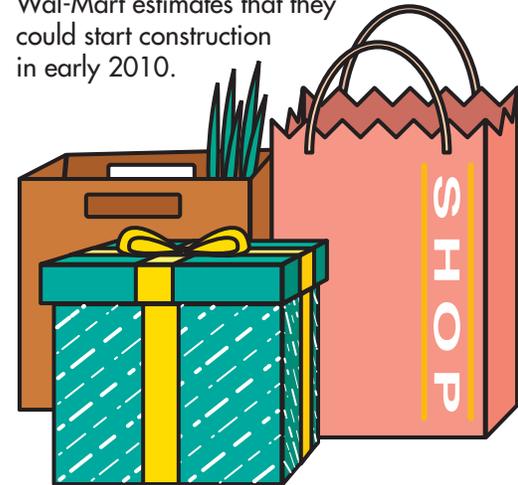
As you may have noticed, the Galt Shopping Center is undergoing a major façade upgrade and parking lot improvements. The façade improvement will include a raised parapet wall to hide the roof top equipment and covered walkways which will provide the center with a modern appearance. Parking lot improvements include landscape islands with trees and new and improved parking lot lighting.

We are also happy to report that the dry cleaners building in front of the center will also be renovated. It will be designed to match the rest of the center. Some of the existing tenants will remain. Keep an eye out for new and exciting tenants to fill the vacant spaces.

## 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. The Draft EIR is expected to be sent out for public review in the summer of 2009. Pending approval by the City, Wal-Mart estimates that they could start construction in early 2010.



# Dial-A-Ride Around Town & More!



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

City residents who don't want to drive, can't drive, or don't have something to drive can still get around town by using Galt's Dial-a-Ride service. This service operates Monday through Friday from 6:30am to 6:30pm and on Saturday from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Dial-a-Ride provides same day curb-to-curb rides and costs \$2.50 for the general public and \$1.75 for students, seniors, and the disabled.

Additionally, if you have a medical appointment in Sacramento, Dial-a-Ride has a **Medical Tripper** service on Thursday and Friday that costs only \$2.50 each way. Call South County Transit to schedule a ride or for more information.

# Capital Improvement Project Updates

## Water Conservation

On February 27, 2009, Governor Schwarzenegger issued a Proclamation for a State of Emergency - Water Shortage for the State of California. This is due to the current drought conditions brought on by a three year water deficit. The state rainfall is currently 24% below average for the 2008/2009 water year and the snow pack water content is 39% below normal. The state's water reservoirs have experienced a historic low with major reservoirs at 64% or greater below capacity. The Governor's Proclamation requests that all water users in the state to reduce water use by 20% and for local agencies to implement water use reduction plans that include water conservation.

Although the City of Galt utilizes ground water, the impact of surface water shortages due to lack of rainfall and snow pack will impact the future ability of groundwater recharge. The City of Galt recognizes the need to respond to the Governor's request for water conservation in an effort to protect current and future water supplies. In 2005, the City of Galt adopted an Urban Water Management Plan, as well as Ordinance 13.10, Galt Water Code, that addresses water conservation measures, including water rationing.

## Conservation Tips

Although water rationing is not yet mandatory, 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; with an extended drought there is the potential that we could run out of water. Water demand in the summer months quadruples due to the increased water consumption from watering of lawns and swimming pools.

In January of 2008 the Water Division pumped over 64 million gallons. In July of 2008 the Water Division pumped over 235 million gallons. This is quite a contrast in water usage. 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 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 366-7260 for additional information.

## Economic Stimulus Funds

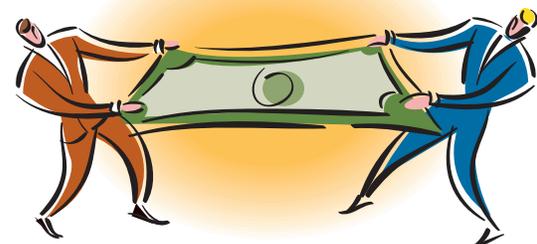
On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 that provides funding for select "shovel ready" projects and services that can create immediate jobs. City Public Works Staff has coordinated efforts toward receiving economic stimulus funds for a variety of projects. SACOG has taken the lead for distribution of transportation funds for roadway and transit projects. Galt is scheduled to receive approximately \$415,000 in RSTP grant funds for pavement rehabilitation and \$300,000 for ADA sidewalk improvements.

Public Works Transit Services is slated to receive approximately \$431,000 in ARRA funding for preventative maintenance, two new transit vehicles, preliminary design and engineering for a transit maintenance/operations facility and four bus shelters.

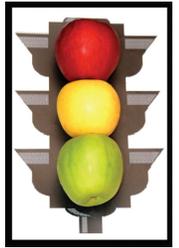
In addition, Public Works staff has submitted preliminary applications for State Revolving Fund (SRF) funded (part loan, part grant) water projects. The current guidelines as of March 2009 are comprised of a loan to grant ratio of 70% / 30%, but final determination has yet to be finalized. The City has applied for funding through California Department of Public Health (CDPH) on the following projects:

- 1) **\$1,600,000 for the Golden Heights Water Facility Phase 3 upgrade**
- 2) **\$4,200,000 for the Water Meter Installation Upgrade Phase 2**
- 3) **\$772,000 for the Kost Well Project**

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



# Twin Cities Road At Carillion Boulevard Signal Design



Design work is nearing completion for installation of traffic signal improvements for the Carillion Boulevard intersection with Twin Cities Road (State Route 104). City staff is coordinating with Caltrans for issuance of the required encroachment permits and Cooperative Maintenance Agreements. Total project cost is estimated to be \$400,000.00.

Construction is anticipated to start later this summer. Call Public Works at 209-366-7260 for information.

## SR2S Improvements

The Public Works Department is finishing bid plans and specifications for installation of striping, signage and crosswalk improvements as part of Cycle 7 of the Safe Routes 2 School Project grant program that will enhance safety for students in school zones. Improvements include in-road crosswalk warning lights at the intersections of Carillion Boulevard/Lake Canyon and Elk Hills Drive/Walnut Road and installation of flashing beacons and radar-detect driver speed display signs on Carillion Boulevard, A Street, C Street, and South Lincoln Way.

Construction of this \$235,000.00 project is scheduled to begin by June 2009. Please call Public Works at 209-366-7260 for additional information.

## New Lincoln Way Parking

The City has acquired a vacant parcel on the east side of Lincoln Way between C and A Streets and developed agreements with local property owners to develop a public parking lot in the Central Business District. The City has recognized the need for additional parking along Lincoln Way. Vacancies and frequent turnover of local businesses in this area can partially be attributed to insufficient customer parking. The City aims to remedy this by adding 34 public parking spaces. In addition to the new paved surface and parking, the project will include lighting for increased security and landscaping to help beautify the area. Design work is currently underway with construction scheduled for this summer.

## Arsenic Water Treatment Project

City of Galt water service customers previously received notice that Galt's water slightly exceeded the new reduced standards for arsenic levels adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Public Health. Although the actual amount of arsenic in the water did not change, the new Arsenic Rule has reduced the maximum contaminant level from 50 to 10 parts per billion.

For each entry point to our distribution system, the level of arsenic in the water must be at or below 10 parts per billion. Five of the City's ten water wells are slightly out of compliance with the new rule. In order to comply with the new standard, the City began construction on a \$2.3M arsenic treatment project in early March 2009 with completion scheduled for the end of summer 2009. In accordance with State law, the City is required to issue quarterly notices until the new arsenic levels are met.

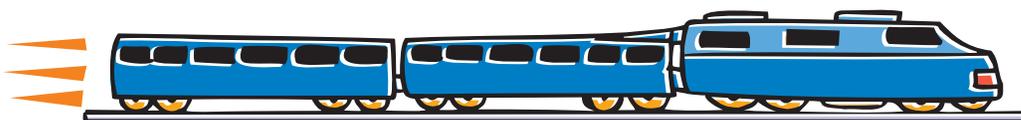
Please call the Public Works Department at 209-366-7260 for additional information.

# Pedestrian/Railroad Crossing Improvements

The Public Works Department is coordinating with UPRR to improve pedestrian safety at the existing railroad tracks/street crossings on Elm Avenue at McFarland Street, A Street, C Street, and F Street by installing separate pedestrian walkways. UPRR crews are scheduled to perform railroad tie maintenance on the main tracks the middle of April 2009 after which they will work with the City to replace all of the roadway crossings.

Replacement of the roadway crossings will require complete closure of the road for 3-5 days. Road closure notices and detours will be provided. Following completion of the UPRR work, the City's contractor will construct the pedestrian crossing improvements.

The Public Works Department asks for your patience during the closures. Please call Public Works at 209-366-7260 for additional information.



# Parks & Recreation Department

## Park Master Plan

The Parks and Recreation Commission will review the "Draft" Parks Master Plan Update at a Special Commission Meeting on Wednesday, April 15th at 7:00pm at the City Council Chambers located at 380 Civic Drive. City Council will review and comment on the Plan at the May 5th City Council Meeting.

The public is encouraged to attend both meetings for their input regarding the future of the City's parks and facilities. For more information, please call 366-7180.



## Arbor Day, Creek Week and Earth Day - April 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

Come join the Parks and Recreation staff in celebrating Arbor Day, Creek Week and Earth Day on the weekend of April 25th. If you or your organization would like to volunteer, please contact Troy Bonnet at 366-7180 or Sabra Ambrose at 745-2508 to participate in Creek Week.

## Certified Farmers Market

The Certified Farmers Market is tentatively scheduled to return for the 2009 growing season on Sunday, May 10th. The Market will be located at "C" Street and Lincoln Way at the Premier West Bank parking lot as well as a portion of 7th Street. Please contact Parks and Recreation at 366-7180 for additional information.

## 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, please visit the City's website ([www.ci.galt.ca.us](http://www.ci.galt.ca.us)) or pickup fliers at the Parks and Recreation Department office. Currently, all registrations are taking place at the Parks and Recreation Department located at 610 Chabolla Avenue (Monday thru Friday 9:00am until 5:00pm). For more information regarding our programs, please call 366-7180.

The Aquatic Center will officially open for the new 2009 Season on Saturday, May 23rd.



## City Tots Preschool Program

Registration for the 2009-2010 City Tots Preschool Program will begin for the public on Monday, June 1st. The class year is August 31, 2009 thru May 21, 2010. This program is available to 3 year olds (must be 3 by December 2, 2009) and 4 year olds (must be 4 by December 2, 2009). 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-10:30am, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11:00am to 2:00pm. The Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00am until 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 thru Fridays June 29 to July 31 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 programs. Pre-Registration is also required for participation in the program.

### Fees:

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Resident                             | \$50.00 |
| Non-Resident in High School District | \$70.00 |
| Non-Resident outside H.S. District   | \$75.00 |

# Keep It Clean!

The Galt Beautification Committee is working very hard to keep our community beautiful. They want to remind everyone to keep your garbage containers behind a fence, in the garage, etc. as stated in Galt Municipal Code Section 8.16.150:

*“...Garbage containers may not be left at curbside, or in any location visible from a public or private street or road, for over thirty hours.”*

This means that not only does the garbage container have to be removed from the curb within 30 hours, but it has to be out of sight. This is a code enforcement issue and you can be cited.

The Committee also wants to remind everyone that it is illegal to place garage sale signs on public property such as utility poles, stop signs, etc. This offense is also citable.



## What Is Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch is a collective group of citizens who are willing to become proactive in reducing the acceptance of crime in their neighborhoods. When neighbors step outside of their home and get to know the neighbor across the street and around the corner, you start to see a shift in attitudes in the neighborhood itself.

When neighbors start to develop that connection to each other, they realize others may share their concerns. It could be gang related, illicit drug use/sales, speeding traffic, or a nuisance home on their block. Whatever it may be, it now becomes a centralized point for all the neighbors to rally together and work with local police to help develop a game plan and course of action.

Once the issues have been recognized, the neighbors and local Law Enforcement begin a working relationship to reduce the culture of crime in that area. Neighborhoods who become visible and work together to report

activity can have

a positive impact on their neighborhoods. To take that a step further, neighborhoods start to realize shared information is a valuable tool and working with other neighborhoods creates a community that can reduce the impact of crime.

We have seen a shift in Neighborhood Watch in the 21st Century, as it is now more fluid. Use of mass media to obtain and share information

has reduced personal interaction to some extent, but it has proven to be much more effective in reaching a wider audience. Many Law Enforcement agencies that support Neighborhood Watch in their communities use an Email Alert System along with traditional meet and greet.



**Spruce Neighborhood Gathering.**



**Kids enjoying their neighborhoods, Grizzly Hollow, Northeast Area.**

In the city of Galt, we have had some success stories... Meadowview, Spruce Area, Grizzly Hollow, Pestana Area, Fumasi Area, Rowland Court Area, Wendy Hope Area. We have much more work to do, but we have exceptional residents within neighborhoods that are willing to become part of the process.

To start a neighborhood watch group or for more information call TJ Guidotti at 366-7021.

**Grizzly Hollow Complex Northeast Area, Working with Local Law Enforcement.**



# 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](http://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.

## Business Licenses Renewals Underway

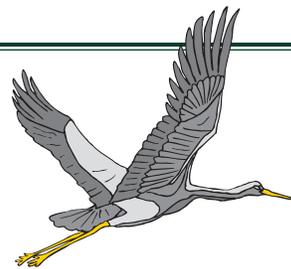
Individual renewal notices were mailed beginning on November 24, 2008, with subsequent reminders in February and March. The business license fee for January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 is as follows:

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

If you have not renewed your current business license, please contact the City of Galt Finance Department at (209) 366-7158 or email [procha@ci.galt.ca.us](mailto:procha@ci.galt.ca.us). Be sure to include your name and license number when contacting the Finance Department.

## Online Utilities Information Coming Soon!

We're working hard so that soon, you'll be able to access your City of Galt Utility information and pay your utility bill ONLINE at [www.ci.galt.ca.us](http://www.ci.galt.ca.us). Check your next utility bill for more information!



### City Hall Information

City Hall  
(209) 366-7130

City Website  
[www.ci.galt.ca.us](http://www.ci.galt.ca.us)

City Email Address  
[clerk@ci.galt.ca.us](mailto: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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