

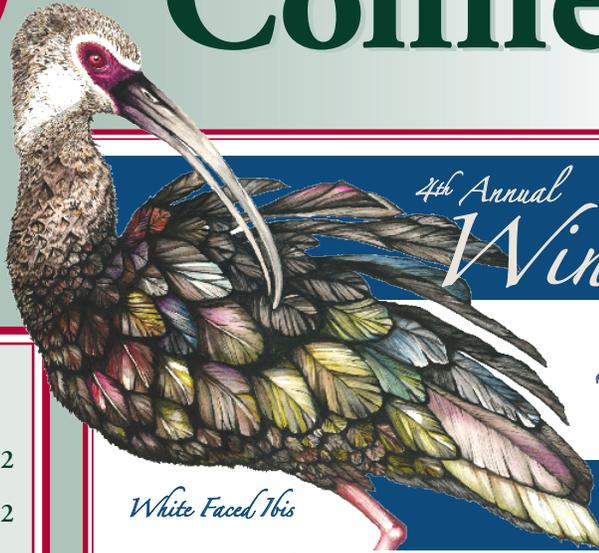


City of
GALT

Volume 11 • Issue 1
January, 2011

GALT. Connections

A City Working For You!



White Faced Ibis

4th Annual Winter Bird Festival

A Celebration Of Birds
Saturday, January 29th • 2011

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Special Dates

January 12 th	Parks & Rec Commission Meeting
January 13 th	Planning Commission Meeting
January 18 th	City Council Meeting
February 1 st	City Council Meeting
February 9 th	Parks & Rec Commission Meeting
February 10 th	Planning Commission Meeting
February 15 th	City Council Meeting
February 21 st	Holiday President's Day
March 1 st	City Council Meeting

McCaffrey Middle School

997 Park Terrace Drive • Galt • 209.366.7220 • www.ci.galt.ca.us

Speakers & Presentations

10:30am - 11:30am	Guest Speakers: Lon & Kat Yarbrough
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Key Note Speaker Corky Quirk
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Wild Things Animal Show
3:00pm - 4:30pm	Guest Speaker: Chris Conard

Bird Tours

5:45am - 8:30am	Dawn in the Wetlands Photo Tour
6:30am - 9:30am	Early Morning Songbirds Tour
7:00am - 10:00am	Wetland and Farm Tour
8:00am - 11:00am	Bufferlands Tour
8:00am - 11:00am	Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Tour
8:00am - 11:00am	Cosumnes River Preserve General Tour
9:00am - 11:00am	Cosumnes River Preserve Children's Tour

- Pre-registration for tours is required
- Call (209) 366-7115 or check website for ticket prices and availability
- Registration deadline is January 14, 2011

Festival Hours
8:00am - 4:00pm

FREE!
Admission to the Festival!

FREE!
Crafts for Kids & Family Fun!

FREE!
Art & Educational Vendors!

Find Rebates and More!

Energy Upgrade California Program

Energy Upgrade California™ (www.energyupgradecalifornia.com) is an exciting, new web-based program that offers a one-stop shop for residential and commercial customers to become knowledgeable about all the energy and water efficiency programs and financing options that are available including rebates, energy financing programs, home energy audits, and participating local building contractors.

Nearly 75% of California's 8 million homes were built prior to the 1982 Title 24 Energy Efficiency Building Standards. By reducing energy use in these older homes, Californians will save energy, money and reduce our impacts on global climate change. However, even homes built after 1982 can have old appliances, leaky windows, insufficient insulation, or other energy inefficiencies that can be easily addressed to save money on monthly utility bills. Older commercial buildings in California, where half of the buildings were built prior to the first efficiency standards, are similarly affected by under-investment in efficiency.

The Energy Upgrade California™ website, funded by federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus fund) dollars, is already in operation with a lot of valuable information, but will reach its full potential in early 2011. Interested parties can sign up for free e-mail updates on the website to keep apprised of new information as it becomes available.

SMUD's Home Performance Program is one of the many exciting programs included in the Energy Upgrade California™ list of programs, but interested parties can also go directly to the SMUD website at www.smud.org to learn more about the program. If you meet low income eligibility requirements, there may also be opportunities for some home weatherization improvements through the Community Resource Project http://www.cresource.org/programs_repairs.html.

Capital Improvement Project Updates

Pedestrian Safety Crossing Improvements Completed

Work was recently completed to extend pedestrian access pathways across the Union Pacific Rail Road (UPRR) tracks on Carillion Boulevard, A Street, C Street, F Street, Elm at Industrial, and Elm at McFarland. The completed improvements upgraded the vehicular crossings at each location and provided hard surface pathways for pedestrians that are separated from the roadway, resulting in significantly improved pedestrian safety.

The final overall cost is approximately \$630,000 and was funded through Measure A, the one-half cent regional transportation sales tax, and a total of \$273,000 from Safe Routes to School (SR2S) and \$325,000 State Transportation Improvement Program for Traffic Enhancement (STIP TE) grant programs.

Contact Public Works at 209-366-7260 for more information.

New walkway on Carillion Boulevard.



New walkway on C Street.

Stockton Boulevard Bicycle Lane Improvements Project

Improvements have been completed to provide a continuous designated bicycle lane along Carol Drive, starting at Amador Avenue, and extending along East Stockton Boulevard all the way up to Twin Cities Road. The completed improvements provide a safe connection for cyclists between central Galt and the Northeast Area. Total project cost was approximately \$400,000 and was mostly funded through a federal Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality program grant.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

The City is nearing completion of the Tertiary Filtration, Ultraviolet Disinfection and Biosolids Improvement Project to upgrade the Wastewater Treatment Plant located on Twin Cities Road. This \$16.6M project is scheduled to be completed early next year. The state of the art treatment facility was designed to meet or exceed all of the stringent discharge requirements included in the new discharge permit issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The treatment plant discharges its effluent into Laguna Creek, which flows into the Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers.

The new discharge standards go far in protecting our environment and downstream water users. The new tertiary filtration system uses a microfiltration system that is designed to remove the smallest of particles out of the water. It is followed by an ultraviolet disinfection system that eliminates the use of chlorine; which can leave a chlorine residual harmful to the fish population, and can cause undesirable byproducts such as trihalomethanes.

The last phase of the project is a biosolids filtration/dewatering system, the latest technology in wastewater sludge treatment. Over a short period of time this sludge is converted to Class B biosolids, which can be recycled and used to fertilize non-food crops such as alfalfa, feed corn, clover, and other fodder crops.

Stormwater Reminder.. Only Rain Down The Drain!

The storm drains in the City's streets are part of a citywide stormwater collection system that takes rainwater and various non-stormwater discharges, such as irrigation water run-off, and carries them to nearby creeks where it then flows to the Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers. This water is not treated or cleaned before it reaches the creeks and rivers. Pollutants that may be carried away from our yards and streets by today's rain become part of tomorrow's river water. These pollutants can be harmful to aquatic life and detrimental to human uses. Automobile oil and dirt from our streets, pesticides and herbicide residues from our yards, and sediment and cement products from construction sites all contribute to the pollutant load. Please do not pour motor oils or other pollutants and wastes down our storm drain catch basin inlets. This is a violation of our local ordinance, and State and Federal law and can result in large fines – possibly as high as \$10,000. Anyone that witnesses an "illicit discharge" is urged to call the Public Works Department at 366-7260.

The City of Galt asks that residents protect our creeks and rivers by doing the following:

- Use pesticides and herbicides carefully and in moderation; check weather forecasts and avoid the application of chemicals prior to rain.
- When cleaning oil and grease from driveways, sweep up absorbent materials once it has absorbed the mess, and place it in your garbage can. Don't hose it down our storm drain.
- Never wash or dump dirt, oil, paint, cement products, chemicals or other pollutants down the storm drains.
- Test to make certain chlorine and other chemicals have dissipated or have been removed from pool or spa water before draining it into the street.
- Insure that you remove leaves, dirt, and trash from the streets and gutters in front of your home or business and put in the proper waste receptacle.
- Rake leaves and yard debris away from storm drain inlets and place in the yard and garden waste (gray) containers. The City street sweepers cannot pick up leaves so please clear the leaves from the gutter.
- Do not hose pet waste, dirt, mud, or any other contaminant into the gutter or storm drain inlet. 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. Thank you in advance for your help. Call 209-366-7260 for more information.

Self Service Sand Bag Station

Public Works has set up the annual self-service sand bag station in front of the Parks and Recreation Corporation Yard located at 550 Elm Avenue. Sand, shovels and bags are available. This service is intended to assist citizens residing within the city limits of Galt to be able to protect property from localized flooding and is self-service. The City is not able to fill or deliver sandbags.

Stop The Clog, Fight Fats, Oils & Grease

Fats, oils and grease are substances that can cause big problems in the sewer system. When poured down the drain they can solidify on to the sides of pipes and build up until eventually a clog occurs. If a clog occurs in your lateral pipeline, sewage may back up into your home causing you an expensive plumbing bill to unclog your pipe. If the clog occurs in the city sewer main, sewage could run out on the street and flow down the storm drains polluting our creeks and streams.

Our goal is to educate the residents and businesses of Galt, raising awareness of these problems so we can all take a proactive approach to prevent these clogs from occurring.

So how do I help?

Fats, oil and grease can be found in many items. Cooking oils, condiments that are made with oils, meat juices and fat are examples. When poured down the drain these items can cause sewer pipes to become clogged. Put these items in a disposable container and throw it in the garbage. You will be doing yourself and your community a favor.

Preventing F.O.G. from causing a clog is a role everyone can play. The following tips can help prevent a clog or sewer overflow in your home or neighborhood.

1. Food stuffs containing fats, oils and grease should NEVER be poured down the drain.
2. Before washing, scrape and dry wipe pots, pans and dishes with paper towels and dispose of materials in the trash.
3. Pour fats, oils and grease after it has cooled into a disposable container, such as an empty glass jar, coffee can or waxed paper containers such as milk or juice cartons. Once the liquid has solidified, secure the lid and place the container in the trash.
4. Avoid relying on the garbage disposal to get rid of food scraps. The garbage disposer chops up food into small pieces, but can still cause a blockage in the pipe. Use sink strainers to catch food items, and then empty the strainer into the trash.

Please use these simple steps to avoid costly sewer back ups and overflows.



Clean Sewer Pipe.



Sewer Pipe with FOG.

Unmet Transit Needs Hearing

Join the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento County, SCT/Link, and the City of Galt for a public hearing to discuss unmet transit needs in the Galt/South Sacramento County area. Hearing to be held in the City Hall Community Room located at 380 Civic Drive, Galt, CA on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PARKS & RECREATION

Galt Junior Warriors Football and Cheer

The Galt Parks and Recreation Department will be accepting registrations for the 2011 season for Galt Jr. Warriors Football and Cheer at the Galt Parks and Recreation offices beginning in January.

For more information, please call 366-7180.

Coaches Needed

Applications are currently being accepted for our 2011 T-Ball, Instructional, Girls' Softball and Jr. Warriors Football and Cheer teams. Pick up an application at the Parks and Recreation Department office. For more information, please call 366-7180.

T-Ball, Instructional, & Girls Softball

Parks & Recreation will be taking registrations for T-Ball, Instructional, and Girls Softball from Monday, January 3rd through Tuesday, February 22nd (late fees will be charged for registrations taken after February 22nd) at the Department office located at 610 Chabolla Avenue. No registrations will be taken after February 28th.

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 more information, call 366-7180.



Children's Musical Theater

Self-Confidence will grow and creativity will shine as students take on the challenges and excitement of performing onstage. Students will have fun acting and singing as they work together to perform a fun-filled and entertaining musical theater production for family and friends to enjoy.

Wednesday, February 23	4:00pm - 5:30pm
Thursdays, March 3-April 14	4:00pm - 5:30pm
Friday, April 15	3:30pm - 6:30pm
(with a performance at 6:30pm)	

All children between the ages of 6 and 12 are welcome to participate. Cost is \$95 per person. For more information, call 366-7180.

Gora Aquatic Center



Galt Parks and Recreation will accept registrations for all aquatics programs beginning Tuesday, March 1st.

Programs will include the Galt Gators Recreational Swim Team, Swim Lessons, and a Lifeguard Training class. Various individual and family passes are also available.

What is the City's Process to Address Abandoned and/or Vacant Property?

Since the economic downturn began in late 2007, there has been an increase of foreclosed homes, as well as an increasing popularity in "walk aways". Since January 1, 2008, approximately 790 homes have been foreclosed upon in the Galt area. Since that time, approximately 730 have been re-sold, with the balance in a state of foreclosure or pending sales. These properties can be called abandoned, neglected, deserted but they are not *forgotten*. We are aware that these vacant and untidy foreclosed homes exist in neighborhoods and want to assure you that cleaning up these properties and other blight is very important in the City of Galt! Eliminating these issues will help protect the health and safety of citizens, minimize threats to neighbor integrity and ensure that critical response and recovery (Fire and Police) activities proceed in a timely and unencumbered manner.

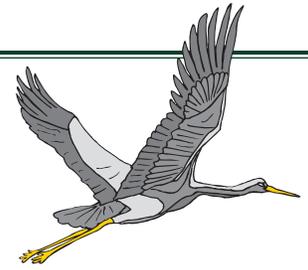
The City Code Enforcement Officer works diligently with local real estate agents, local and national banks, mortgage companies, as well as property preservation representatives (responsible parties) throughout the county to address these issues in a timely manner. The process for dealing with foreclosed property can become quite involved and time consuming. For instance, most abandoned homes do not have a real estate agent attached to them for quite some time because many of them are "walk aways" and people with vested interest in the properties are not even aware these homes are no longer occupied.

Once the City is made aware of the abandoned/vacant property (proactively and/or complaint driven), the Code Enforcement Department process is as follows:

1. Identify and photograph the violations and post the house with a **Notice of Violation** (a red placard notifying the public that the property is being investigated by Code Enforcement).
2. Research the property (which can be extensive) to locate the mortgage company and/or bank ultimately responsible for the care of the abandoned property or the owner if the foreclosure process has not been complete. One of the toughest issues we face is finding the current beneficiary of the Deed of Trust and the right person at that institution - the one who has the authority to make decisions and resolve violations
3. Once contact has been made, the responsible party adds this property to a list and solicits bids from contractors for a property maintenance contract. Please keep in mind this list may contain thousands of homes throughout the country, as most banks have loans on a national level; this process alone can take up to two months.
4. After the bid is received by the bank/responsible party, they must determine if the bid is acceptable. Once the bid is accepted, the contractor is dispatched to the property to begin cleanup. Code Enforcement then monitors the property to ensure appropriate remedial actions are occurring through completion.

To date, the City of Galt has successfully located the responsible parties for approximately 90% of the vacant homes in our city! We constantly remind the lending institutions of their responsibility to maintain these properties within our community!

If you notice a property going astray, such as high grass (over 1 foot in height) or obvious damage, please report the issues to Code Enforcement immediately. Once we are made aware of issues, we can get started with the notification process in order to remedy potential problems for the specific property and the neighborhood. In addition to vacant properties, Code Enforcement is responsible for addressing public health and safety issues, including regulations related to rubbish, garbage, specific nuisances, removal of vegetation, zoning, housing, dangerous buildings, and inoperable and unlicensed vehicles on private property. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Code Enforcement Officer at (209) 366-7200 or email rhughes@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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