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# The Galt Herald

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JANUARY 26, 2024

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## City Sees 1st Measure Q Money



Cal-Waste's Leesa Klotz (left) and Emily De Herrera (right) present an award to Galt Joint Union Elementary School District for its recycling and organics recycling efforts. The district is represented by Superintendent Lois Yount (center left) and Director of Food Services Nick Svoboda. Cal-Waste also recognized Quik Stop gas station and Horizon Community Church. Photo by Matthew Malone

**By Matthew Malone News Editor**

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - Presenting the city of Galt's annual comprehensive financial report, the city's finance head told Galt City Council members about increases in revenue and expenses, and discussed the first income

from the Measure Q sales tax. Council approved a request for bids on Walker Community Park upgrades.

Finance Director Matthew Boring said the report had received an unmodified opinion from the city's auditor, with no findings. This means that the auditor considered the

data to be fairly presented and had identified no corrections, which Boring called "the gold standard." The report was also completed within the required six-month timeframe, which he said has not happened in several years.

The city's net position in the fiscal year 2022-23

rose to \$245.5 million, an increase of close to 7% over the previous year. Total revenue increased by \$8.5 million or 16%, while total expenditures increased \$7.7 million or 20%.

Boring said some of the rise in income was caused

*Continued on Page 2*



## CSD Board Reviews Finance Report

**By Matthew Malone News Editor**

**ELK GROVE, CA (MPG)** - At its Jan. 17 regular meeting, the Cosumnes Community Services District (CSD) board of directors received the annual comprehensive financial report for 2023.

Finance Director Nou Vang said CSD's auditor had issued an unmodified opinion on the report, meaning that the data included in the document is fairly presented and reliable. She said the auditor recommended performing more reviews of finance data to reduce the number of adjustments during the audit. A staff report said the auditor identified 20 adjustments that the district then corrected.

In fiscal year 2022-23, CSD revenue reached nearly \$138.4 million, an increase of \$22.5 million or 20% over the previous year. Expenses also rose, to \$119 million, which is \$19.8 million or 20% higher than the previous year.

The largest portion of the district's income, close to 44%, comes from property taxes, with charges for services making up the next largest chunk, 37%. Public protection accounted for 58% of CSD's spending, and 32% went to parks and recreation; general government made up the remaining 10%.

Vang considered the property taxes and charges for services for highlights, as both increased notably over the previous fiscal year, property taxes by about 8% and charges by about 20%. She also pointed to jumps in development fees and capital assets, and growth in the district's reserve fund.

Looking at challenges facing CSD, Vang said that the district's liability for pension and other retirement benefits had grown by \$150.9 million. She said this was caused by a number of factors, such as inflation, the fact that people are living longer, and the fact that CalPERS, the public-employee pension plan, reported a loss on its investments.

Vang said pension liability is a "moving target number" that can go up or down based on how well CalPERS' investments pan out.

"Overall, I'm really

*Continued on Page 2*

## A-Z Makes Donation to Night to Shine



Christina Wilhelm of Horizon Community Church receives a donation of \$1,000 from A-Z Foundation's Rick Horrocks and Kevin Ehman. Photo courtesy of A-Z Foundation

**By Matthew Malone News Editor**

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - The local nonprofit A-Z Foundation lent its support to the annual Night to Shine event with a donation of \$1,000.

Horizon Community Church received the donation. It organizes the local version of the nationwide event, dedicated to providing the prom experience for developmentally disabled people. This year, Night to

Shine will be held on Feb. 9, and Horizon's celebration will be at Hutchins Street Square in Lodi. The church said in a letter to A-Z that it expects to welcome about 500 attendees, including the honored guests, and

their family, friends and caretakers.

"They are given special treatment with a limo ride, a full red-carpet experience with good paparazzi, photographers and cheering crowds," the letter read. ★



# Elementary Board OKs Design Work for Greer Portables



Principals and assistant principals from Galt Joint Union Elementary School campuses accept certificates from Cal-Waste recognizing their work to separate out recycling and organics from the trash. Photo by Matthew Malone

By Matthew Malone  
News Editor

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - The board of education for Galt Joint Union Elementary School district agreed at its Jan. 17 regular meeting to fund design work for the replacement of portable classrooms at Vernon E. Greer Elementary School.

Superintendent Lois Yount said the portables are used for the expanded learning program. While she said they are safe to use, the district has not upgraded them "because we knew they needed to be removed."

Staff recommended hiring 19six Architects for the architectural work, at a cost of about \$86,000. The money would come from expanded learning funds.

Yount said the next step would be to contract with a company to build new portables. Based on conversations with manufacturers, she said the earliest the district would receive the buildings would be in late 2024 or early 2025. She projected that the construction might be completed by summer 2025. She estimated that the full project would cost \$450,000.

The trustees approved the item unanimously.

During public comment, several speakers voiced opinions on the

installation of a tampon dispenser in a boys bathroom at least one of the district's campuses.

Four people asked that the dispenser be removed from the boys bathroom at Lake Canyon Elementary School. One speaker advocated to keep them.

The dispenser, and others in girls bathrooms, were installed to comply with a state law passed in 2021. Assembly Bill 367 requires schools in grades 6-12 "to stock the school's restrooms with an adequate supply of free menstrual products ... available and accessible, free of cost, in all women's restrooms and all-gender restrooms, and in at least one men's restroom, at all times."

Speaker Matthew Ward said keeping the dispenser would "eliminate the distinction (between boys and girls)" and that it implied that students who were not biologically male were using the boys bathroom. He and other speakers encouraged the board not to comply with the law.

Speaker Veronica Kaufman said she understood community opposition, but she said it is important to provide tampons due to poverty among students. She said lack of access to menstrual products disproportionately harms the health of women and girls, transgender men and boys, and nonbinary people. ★

# City Sees 1st Measure Q Money

Continued from Page 1

by the city recognizing the last of its pandemic-relief grant from the American Rescue Plan Act. The rise in expenses was mainly the result of work on capital projects.

The city's assets and liabilities also increased, by 4% and 19% respectively. Boring said pension obligations account for the rise in liabilities, due to low investment returns at CalPERS, the public-employee retirement plan.

The first revenues were recorded for the Measure Q sales tax, approved by Galt voters in 2022; the 1-cent tax intended to supplement parks and recreation funding brought in about \$1 million in 2022-23, Boring said, making up roughly a quarter of the total sales tax collected. He said the Measure Q money was collected over the final three months of the fiscal year, which ended in June 2023. While that amount suggests a potential annual revenue of \$4 million, Boring expected the yearly amount

to be higher.

"That should also increase going forward," Boring told Council Member Shawn Farmer. "There's still some lag and some retailers not collecting that (the Measure Q sales tax)."

He added that the city's sales tax consultants monitor for compliance among businesses.

Vice Mayor Rich Lozano commended the Finance Department's work, saying the city is in a better financial position than it was several years ago, particularly in the amount of money available in the general fund. He also voiced interest in hearing what can be done to address a decrease in Galt Market revenue.

Council accepted the report by a 4-0 vote. Council Member Kevin Papineau was absent.

With the city set to receive a grant covering half of the money to complete the next phase of the Walker Community Park upgrades, city staff asked Council to approve a request for bids to

design the project.

The Phase IIA upgrades will add three baseball/softball diamonds and an expansion to the parking lot, as well as a new bathroom and landscaping.

The city was awarded a \$2.65 million grant by the state Land and Water Conservation Fund, which accounts for half of the expected price tag; the city must come up with the remaining money. Deputy Director of Public Works John Griffin said the specific application necessary to start construction would take months to complete.

Assuming the grant money is provided in June this year, he said the documents could be finished by May 2025, and the construction contract awarded in September 2025. He said construction could finish by October 2026.

Council approved the request for proposals with a 4-0 vote. They identified Park Capital Funds, Measure Q and the general fund as sources for the city's half of the bill. ★



Phase IIA of the Walker Community Park Master Plan will include the baseball/softball fields and parking in the center of this image. (North is to the left.) Image via city of Galt



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# An Invitation to Annual Strauss Tea



## Strauss Festival News Release

**ELK GROVE, CA (MPG)** - Join the Strauss Festival of Elk Grove for their annual Strauss Tea on March 23, 2024, at District56 in Elk Grove. The theme is the "Tea at the Round Table" which coincides with the 2024 Strauss theme of "Two Kingdom Tournament." Come preview the beautifully decorated tables, sip a glass of wine, enjoy the delicious tea treats and win some fabulous raffle prizes. Enjoy the always lovely Strauss dancers in their elegant costumes performing classical dances at the event. The cost is just \$45 per person or \$315 for a table of eight. Tea time is 1-4 p.m. Those interested in decorating a table for the tea should contact Strauss at [info@straussfestival.com](mailto:info@straussfestival.com), or the message line at 916-714-2527. RSVPs may be made by the contact information above or sending a check to P.O. Box 309, Elk Grove, CA 95759. ★

# Office of Traffic Safety, Caltrans, and the CIF Partner to Promote Safe Driving Behaviors



Traffic Safety is a team sport and we're thrilled to team up with the CIF to encourage safe driving behaviors. MPG Stock Photo

## Office of Traffic Safety and Caltrans News Release

### SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

--The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announced today a partnership with the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) aimed at raising awareness and educating drivers on safe travel behaviors, especially in and around highway work zones.

The OTS and Caltrans will display digital messages, signs and audio public service announcements at the CIF State Wrestling Championships in February, Basketball Championships in March, and the Swim & Dive and Track & Field Championships in May encouraging student-athletes, parents and families to always "Be Work Zone Alert" and "move over" for highway workers, or slow down if unable to do so.

"Traffic Safety is a team sport and we're thrilled

to team up with the CIF to encourage safe driving behaviors," said Caltrans Director Tony Tavares. "Engaging youth is a great play to help reach our Vision Zero Initiative's goal to eliminate traffic-related severe injuries and deaths."

"Traveling safely is a game plan that's always a win," OTS Director Barbara Rooney said. "We are excited to partner with the CIF to relay important traffic safety messages to student-athletes, parents and fans that everyone can get behind."

"We are happy to have California OTS and Caltrans as partners," said Bryan Powell, General Sales Manager for CIF Sports Properties. "Traveling safely to and from CIF events is incredibly important, and we are pleased to share this messaging with the attendees of our upcoming championship events."

Additional messaging and content will focus on safe and responsible driving, including awareness about

California's hands-free cell phone law and the risks of distracted driving, as well as reminding drivers to slow down and "Share the Road" by looking out for bicyclists and pedestrians.

In addition, traffic safety messages will appear on social media, the CIF state website, and the CIF Sports 365 mobile app.

Car crashes are a leading cause of death for teens in the United States. In 2021, there were more than 17,000 fatal and injury crashes involving teen drivers across California, according to data from the California Highway Patrol's Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System.

Student-athletes, parents and fans are encouraged to join the Go Safely Movement and sign up as "traffic safety champions" for their families and communities.

To learn more about efforts to save lives on California roads, visit [gosafelyca.org](http://gosafelyca.org) and follow on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @GoSafelyCA. ★

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# MEMORIAL

## PEARL MAE LONGMIRE • 9/11/1932 – 1/05/2024

Pearl was born in Connecticut to Franklin Estabrook and Mary Shaddock on September 11, 1932. Pearl and her family made the move to Waterford, California when she was young. She attended Oakdale High School and attended Stanislaus State College in Turlock for a college education. She received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, graduating with the college's first class that she affectionately referred to as "Turkey Tech".

Pearl met the love of her life, Duane, and the two married. The pair had four children; Charlene, Laura, Debra, and John. Along with being a loving wife and mother, Pearl dedicated 27 years to Salida Unified School District as



a teacher, and officially retired from her position in 1990.

Pearl was an active member of the LDS Church and Twin Cities Ward, as well as stayed active with the Galt Seniors Club and Red Hats for many years. When she was relaxing at home, Pearl kept busy with cross-stitching and crocheting for her children and grandchildren.

Pearl is preceded in death by her husband

Duane E. Longmire, her grandson John W. Longmire, and her granddaughter Riley K. Bond. She is survived by her children - Mary Charlene Wright, Laura Jean Lucas, Debra Ann Dial (Brian), and John Duane Longmire (Julie) - and her expanding family of 12 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

A visitation for Pearl will begin at 10:00AM on January 27th in Lakewood Funeral Home's Riverside Chapel, followed by the funeral service at 11:00AM. The service will be led by Bishop Ranshe Gale, with Scott Shaffer as speaker. A graveside service will take place in Lakewood Memorial Park promptly after the funeral service.

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# CSD Board Reviews Finance Report



Former CSD Parks Advisory Committee Members Lisa Robinson (center left) and Gloria Lambert-Hector (center right) receive resolutions acknowledging their three years of service. Photos by Matthew Malone

pleased with how we ended out the fiscal year. This really highlights our commitment being trusted stewards of public funds," Vang said.

Director Pete Sakaris asked Vang whether CSD is prepared to handle the ups and downs in its pension liabilities. Acknowledging that it is "tough" to manage the changes, Vang said the district is on a 20-year plan with

CalPERS to pay down the obligations, and that may sometimes mean increasing its contribution. She said district staff are reviewing the current arrangement. Sakaris asked for a presentation on the pension agreement.

The directors commended Vang and staff for their work.

In addition, CSD recognized two former committee members and

two retired Cosumnes Fire Department chiefs. Lisa Robinson and Gloria Lambert-Hector served on the Parks Advisory Committee for more than three years. Former fire chiefs Tracey Hansen and Michael Laughlin were honored after having been inducted into the California Fire Chiefs Association Hall of Fame. ★



Retired Cosumnes Fire Department Chiefs Tracey Hansen (center left) and Michael McLaughlin (center right) receive resolutions recognizing their inductions into the California Fire Chiefs Association Hall of Fame.



The Cosumnes CSD finance staff pose for a photo with the board of directors. The Government Finance Officers Association awarded the district a certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting.

## ABOUT TOWN

### Winter Bird Fest Jan. 29-Feb. 4

The annual Winter Bird Festival will take place over a full week this year, with events from Jan. 29 to Feb. 4. Activities include virtual art workshops, a paint-and-sip night, a readalong at the Galt library and tours of Cosumnes River Preserve. Family activities and keynote talks will take place at Chabolla Community Center on Feb. 3. To get more information and preregister for events, visit [www.cityof-galt.org/wbf](http://www.cityof-galt.org/wbf).

### Nutritional program in Feb., March

Galt Adult School will host a series of nutritional workshops called "Families Eating Smart and Moving More" in February and March. The six-session course will be held on Tuesdays, Feb. 13, 20 and 27; and March 5, 12 and 19.

Classes are free and all are welcome. Galt Adult School is located at 12935 Marengo Road. To get more information or to register, call 209-745-5852, ext. 7004, or email [aliciaramos@ghsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:aliciaramos@ghsd.k12.ca.us).

### Our Lady of Fatima Society of Thornton Crab Dinner Feb. 3

We are so excited to be back home in Thornton.

Our dinner will be held at the Our Lady of Fatima Society Hall in Thornton.

No Host Cocktails will be from 6:30 to 7:30 PM, Dinner at 7:30 PM

Dance: 9:00 PM (The Jay Rolerz Band)

Tickets: \$75.00

No outside alcohol or beverages allowed

Tickets must be purchased in advance

For tickets call: 209-712-3683 or 209-329-2006 ★

## MEETING MINDERS

### Friday, Jan. 26

Galt Sunrise Rotary, 7 a.m., Velvet Grill & Creamery, 400 Fourth St., 209-745-6617.

Galt Friends of the Library, 10 a.m., Marian O. Lawrence Library, 1000 Caroline Ave.

### Thursday, Feb. 1

Galt Community of Character Coalition meeting, 4 p.m., Galt City Hall community room, 380 Civic Drive.

### Friday, Feb. 2

Galt Sunrise Rotary, 7 a.m., Velvet Grill & Creamery, 400 Fourth St., 209-745-6617. ★

## POLICE LOGS

During the time period of Jan. 12-18, Galt police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in 11 arrests.

### Fri., Jan. 12

04:38 a.m., auto burglary reported on West Elm Avenue.

04:45 a.m., attempted theft/tampering reported at Spruce Wood Apartments on A Street.

05:42 a.m., auto burglary reported at La Quinta Inn & Suites on North Lincoln Way.

06:59 a.m., theft reported on Fourth Street.

07:54 a.m., auto burglary reported on Sparrow Drive.

09:25 a.m., attempt to serve warrant/adult arrested on Twin Cities Road.

09:53 a.m., stolen vehicle reported at More For Less on North Lincoln Way.

03:28 p.m., auto burglary reported at La Quinta Inn & Suites on North Lincoln Way.

04:27 p.m., burglary reported on C Street.

05:25 p.m., weapon

brandishing reported at Best Western Inn on North Lincoln Way.

06:56 p.m., attempt to serve warrant/adult arrested at La Quinta Inn & Suites on North Lincoln Way.

### Sat., Jan. 13

03:42 a.m., narcotics violation/adult arrested at Highway 99/West Stockton Boulevard.

03:55 a.m., kidnapping/adult arrested at Galt Post Office on North Lincoln Way.

09:46 a.m., burglary reported on Spaans Drive.

04:52 p.m., attempt to serve warrant/adult arrested on J Street.

05:20 p.m., stolen vehicle reported on Palin Avenue.

### Sun., Jan. 14

08:38 a.m., auto burglary reported on Sandra Way.

10:10 p.m., narcotics violation/adult arrested at Galt Plaza on C Street.

### Mon., Jan. 15

03:30 p.m., narcotics violation/adult arrested at Chevron on Simmerhorn

Road.

05:31 p.m., auto burglary reported on Janine Court.

06:23 p.m., narcotics violation/adult arrested at A Street/North Lincoln Way.

07:34 p.m., trespassing reported at More For Less on North Lincoln Way.

### Tues., Jan. 16

03:45 p.m., hit-and-run/non-injury reported at Twin Cities Road/Mckenzie Road.

05:03 p.m., missing adult reported on Village Drive.

08:31 p.m., domestic violence/adult arrested at Elliott Homes on Elk Hills Drive.

### Wed., Jan. 17

11:07 a.m., narcotics violation/adult arrested at 7-Eleven on Pine Street.

### Thurs., Jan. 18

12:57 a.m., DUI/adult arrested at Kost Road/Hamel Way.

09:32 a.m., burglary reported on Amador Avenue.

09L33 a.m., burglary reported on Lyonia Circle. ★

## GLANCE BACK

### Feb. 4, 1944

The Darlene Beauty Shop located on A Street between Seventh and the Old Highway 99 has been reopened under the management of Loretta Imhoff. Mrs. Imhoff is an experienced beauty operator and has leased the shop from Mrs. Erma Listini.

□ □ □

Born Jan. 14, 1944 at the Mercy Hospital in Sacramento, to Mr. Mike and Mrs. Ray McKindley, a son, weighing 8 pounds 2 ounces. Mrs. McKindley is the former Dollie Klaner. While her husband is in the Navy, she is staying with her sister, Mrs. George Kenefick.

### Feb. 4, 1954

An unofficial future policy of hiring school superintendents on one-year contracts only has apparently been adopted by the Galt High School board of trustees.

□ □ □

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Caldwell, Galt, are the proud parents of a daughter, Myra Jean, born Feb. 2 at Lodi Memorial Hospital. She weighed 8 pounds 7½ ounces and arrived at 3:15 p.m. ... Mr. and Mrs. Robert Herrick, Galt, are the proud parents of a daughter, Jane Ellen, born Feb. 2 at Lodi Memorial Hospital. She weighed 6 pounds 14½ ounces and arrived at 1:39 p.m.

### Jan. 30, 1964

Anthony "Tony" Simas Jr. of Galt was presented the outstanding young farmer of the year by the Galt Junior Chamber of Commerce Saturday night in the Grange Hall before nearly 50 people. The award was given to Simas "for progress as a young man actively engaged in farming."

□ □ □

Bill Weathers, noble grand of the Odd Fellows, and Mrs. Myrtle Roush, noble grand of the Rei Rebekahs were installed in ceremonies at the Grange Hall Jan. 21.

□ □ □

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Patterson, Chief of Police and Mrs. Walter Froehlich, Council Bob Biederman and City Treasurer Charles Bellie attended the League of Cities dinner Friday evening in Woodland. There were 300 in attendance.

### Jan. 31, 1974

Wendell Nimmo was named as general chairman of the Galt Community Clover Festival & Rodeo this week. Tentative dates are June 20-23. Other chairmen named were Larry Parsons, rodeo, and Nick Elliott and Jim Spratt, parade. Romilda Nimmo was selected as queen pageant chairman, and secretary is Renee Mendonca. ★

Hazel Schlotthauer is publicity chairman, and Merk Roberts heads the outside entertainment.

□ □ □

Mr. and Mrs. John Houck, Gregory, Scott and Brent entertained with a family dinner at their home Jan. 27 to celebrate the 59th wedding anniversary of John's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Houck who are visiting from Topeka, Kan.

### Jan. 26, 1984

The City of Galt appears just three to four months away from full operation of the federally mandated "911" emergency system. When fully intact, Galt residents will be able to dial the same three numbers for ambulance service, the fire department, Galt Police, Sacramento County Sheriff, California Highway Patrol, and other emergency services.

□ □ □

Susan Gregory, Anchor person at KCRA-TV, Channel 3, took Chamber of Commerce on a tour of the Channel 3 newsroom via slides at the regular meeting of the Chamber of Commerce last Thursday at the Golden Acorn. She talked about the preparation of news stories before they go on the air, and how they could be changed before they go on the air, and even while they are broadcasting. ★

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# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## Nar-Anon family group meetings

Narcotics Anonymous (Nar-Anon) family group meetings for friends and family members who are dealing with drug addiction are held locally on a weekly basis, Saturdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Galt United Methodist Church, 571 C St. in Galt.

## Sunshine Food Pantry donation sites

Sunshine Food Pantry is a food closet that helps provide for local residents. Collections of canned food and dry good nonperishable items are received at United Methodist Church, 571 C St. in Galt; call to make an appointment for donations, 209-745-4133.

The food closet is open on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 7:30-10 a.m., at the United Methodist Church.

## Meals on Wheels cafe accepting older adults

Meals on Wheels is accepting new participants in its Galt All Seasons Café located in the Chabolla Community Center, 600 Chabolla Ave. The cafe is open Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. for adults age 60 and older. Those interested can apply at the Chabolla Center when meals are being served, or they can call 916-444-9533.

## Senior Bingo weekly at Chabolla

The Galt Commission on Aging is hosting Senior Bingo games at the Chabolla Community Center at 600 Chabolla Ave., every Monday, 1-3 p.m. (except holidays and when required by the city). Seniors of Galt and its immediate vicinity are cordially invited to come have fun and play bingo together, socialize, and possibly make new friends. Attendance is free of charge.

## Volunteers sought for senior resource center

The Commission on Aging is looking for volunteers to staff the Galt Senior Resource Center, which opened its doors in April. The commission is looking for people who can operate a computer, and are willing to answer questions from seniors in person, over the phone, on social media or by email.

Volunteer slots are available in two-hour increments for up to four hours, Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., excluding holidays. Volunteers will be trained and will have the ability to contact members of the commission if questions arise.

The resource center is located at the Chabolla Community Center, 600 Chabolla Ave. If you are interested in helping, please call 209-294-3308 and leave a message. Or, once the resource center is open, inquire in person.

## Cosumnes DAR chapter accepting new members

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recently started their Rio Cosumnes Chapter in the Elk Grove/Galt community, and they are accepting new members.

DAR is a nonprofit, nonpolitical volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better

education for children. Members are all lineal descendants of those who supported the cause of independence in the Revolutionary War.

For more information on the Rio Cosumnes Chapter's monthly meetings or membership, contact Registrar Paula Schroeder at egdarregistrar@gmail.com.

## City after-hours assistance

After-hours assistance is on offer at the Galt Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments. For Public Works concerns, call the Galt Police Department nonemergency line at 209-366-7000. The Parks Maintenance Division is available for scheduled field or facility use assistance only, from Monday to Friday, 4-10 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Call 209-810-0293.

## Library offers older adults computer time

In cooperation with the Galt Commission on Aging, the Galt-Marian O. Lawrence Library will schedule a set time for older adults to use its computers, upon request. Those 65 and older who wish to request computer time can call the library at 916-264-2920. Staff will help set up the computer or tablet. The library is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is located at 1000 Caroline Ave.

## Recycle household batteries

City of Galt residents can recycle their household batteries in one of two green household-battery recycling bins: on the west side, at the front entrance to the Galt Police Department; or on the east side, at Galt Community Park, just west of the fire station. The green bin is for dry-cell household batteries only.

For additional information, contact the Public Works Department at 209-366-7260.

## Square dance classes on Mondays

The Diamond Dancers Square Dance Club is hosting social square dancing classes in Galt. The classes are open to everyone and are held on Mondays 6:30-8 p.m. at the Valley Oaks Grange Hall. The classes are formatted for flexibility, and students can learn numerous square dance calls in about three months. The Valley Oaks Grange Hall is located at 347 Fifth St. For more information, call Sue Regadanz at 916-835-8916.

## Nominate your neighbor

The Galt Beautification Committee is asking you to "nominate your neighbor." Has your neighbor recently completed a yard project? Does your neighbor have the best flowers in town or the best-looking yard? The Galt Beautification Committee wants to know. Send an email with pictures and why you are nominating your neighbor to [planningdivision@cityofgalt.org](mailto:planningdivision@cityofgalt.org). The best submissions will be included in future newsletters and City Manager Updates.

## AA 24-hour hotline

For help with an alcohol-related problem, call the Alcoholics Anonymous 24-hour hotline at 209-745-1525. ★

# Local Parents of Deceased Veteran Sue VA

By Matthew Malone  
News Editor

*Editor's Note: This article includes discussion of suicide. If you or someone you know may be considering suicide, contact the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by dialing 988, or the Crisis Text Line by texting HOME to 741741.*

**ELK GROVE, CA (MPG)** - An Elk Grove couple say their son, a filmmaker and actor who served in the military, was let down by the mental health care available for veterans, leading to his death by suicide in 2018. They are seeking a remedy in court with a lawsuit against the U.S. government.

Carlos Lopez Sr. and Juanita Lopez told the Citizen that they believe their son, Carlos Lopez Jr., died as a result of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). They memorialized him with a celebration of life at the Crest Theatre in Sacramento, showing a student film he wrote, produced and starred in about the effects of PTSD on veterans.

The Laguna Creek High School graduate enlisted in the Army in 2002, months before the U.S. invasion of Iraq, leading to service in Baghdad, Najaf and Fallujah. This was followed by time in Kuwait as a civilian contractor and then an additional tour of duty in Afghanistan. In all, his family said he served more than 37 months in combat zones.

After being honorably discharged in 2010, Carlos Lopez Jr. attended Cosumnes River College to study acting and theater. He then moved to Los Angeles to pursue a film and television career, finding work in multiple movies and TV shows.

In addition, Lopez was diagnosed with PTSD and other conditions.

Years later, in 2018, following a series of visits with U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) mental health care providers, he took his own life. His parents advocated for recognition of the emotional anguish they experienced as a result, writing letters to Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden, and attempting to press the issue with the VA internally. In 2021, they found a law firm willing to represent them in court, and they filed suit.

The first trial date in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California is scheduled for Jan. 30.

## Seeking Treatment

In February 2018, Lopez began to seek mental health treatment. According to court documents filed on behalf of the Lopezes, he made an unscheduled visit to a VA medical center in Los Angeles complaining of "low motivation, thoughts of death, and depression." The psychologist who saw him referred him to a second psychologist the next month.

He reportedly told the second psychologist that he was experiencing symptoms like guardedness and intrusive memories from combat. At a follow-up appointment, a neurologist prescribed gabapentin for Lopez, to ease back pain. After one more appointment in May, the next meeting with the second psychologist was scheduled for three months later.

Lopez showed up at the medical center before then, on June 19. According to plaintiff filings, he said he had "frequent nightmares that were 'so real that he can't distinguished [sic] between real and not real,' and worries that he is a 'bad person' and 'capable of doing awful things.'"

The psychologist who had treated him back in February



Carlos Lopez Jr. Photo courtesy of the Lopez family

determined that he was at low risk of harming himself or others.

Five days later, on June 24, 2018, Lopez died by suicide. He was 35 years old. The coroner's report found no drugs or alcohol in his system; the coroner reportedly did not test for gabapentin.

The Lopezes are arguing that the VA engaged in medical malpractice while treating their son, resulting in his death, and mental anguish for his parents.

They said the VA appointments, several of which lasted less than 30 minutes, were too short to get a proper sense of Lopez's mental state. They felt he should have been placed under an involuntary psychiatric hold.

Additionally, they pointed to the fact that gabapentin's listed side effects include thoughts of suicide.

Carlos Lopez Sr. told the Herald that the medication "enhanced" his son's distress. The Lopezes said their son called them and other family members in the days before he died, saying he was having nightmares and couldn't sleep. However, Juanita Lopez said, they didn't "connect the dots."

## The Government's Response

In its defense, the government has asserted that the Lopezes cannot prove any breach in the standard of care by the doctors who treated Carlos Lopez Jr. and that "there was there was no indication or evidence that Mr. Lopez was actively suicidal or homicidal" in the time leading up to his death. It argued that "an unknowable number of events" could have affected Lopez's mental state in the five days between his final appointment and his suicide.

The defense made these statements in a filing on Dec. 11, 2023.

Regarding the possibility of an involuntary psychiatric hold, the government said it would show, through expert testimony, that Lopez did not meet the criteria for such an action when he met with the psychologist.

It asserted that gabapentin is a common choice for

treating neuropathic pain and does not create significant suicide risk. It also said that there is no advice against prescribing gabapentin to a patient who has been diagnosed with PTSD. Further, the government said there was no evidence Lopez had been taking the medicine as prescribed.

"Plaintiffs also only offer speculation that Gabapentin played a role in Mr. Lopez's death," the defense said. "Moreover, there is no evidence of Gabapentin in Mr. Lopez's body at the time of his death."

## A Bigger Issue

Juanita Lopez said it angered her to learn that veterans taking their own lives is a broader problem. An article on veteran suicide that included her son's death and those of other servicemembers particularly struck her.

The suicide rate among veterans was 33.9 per 100,000 people in 2021, according to data from the VA. The rate for nonveterans was roughly half that of veterans, at 16.7 per 100,000.

The Lopezes said it is important to them to say that their son died from PTSD. They said the VA should have doctors perform a more careful psychiatric assessment when a patient first comes in, and take more decisive action to protect veterans who indicate a risk of suicide.

In his self-produced film, "PTSD: An American Tragedy," Carlos Lopez Jr. plays a soldier, Victor Martinez, who, after serving a tour of duty in Afghanistan, returns home with severe trauma. Innocuous sounds, like a kitchen timer, trigger flashbacks to the battlefield, and he copes with nightmares and stress by drinking and doing drugs. He becomes violent with his wife and a close friend. The movie ends as Victor takes his own life.

Lopez's interest in film was evident during his Iraq service, when he would send his parents videos showing his experiences. His celebration of life featured a screening of "PTSD: An American Tragedy."

His parents told the Citizen that they planned to testify at the Jan. 30 hearing.

"When a veteran goes to war and all that, they don't go alone," Juanita Lopez said. "There's a whole family behind them, spiritually; maybe not physically, but that's what happens. And when people die like this, you think, 'There's no cause for it happen this way. He survived his tours of duty. Why can't he survive his civilian life?'" ★



Carlos Lopez Jr. during his military service in the Middle East Photos courtesy of the Lopez family



A Lopez family picture with Carlos Lopez Jr. in the back row, far right. His parents, Juanita Lopez and Carlos Lopez Sr., are seated at center.

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# Presidential Primary Election Update

## Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center Locations Posted

### Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Voter Registration and Elections (VRE) has posted the list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations for the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election on the website.

Vote by Mail ballots will be mailed to voters beginning Monday, February 5, 2024. Ballot Drop Boxes will begin opening Monday, February 5, 2024, and Vote Centers will begin opening Saturday, February 24, 2024. A complete list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations, their days and hours of operation, and an interactive map can be found at: <https://elections.saccounty.net/votecenters/pages/locations.aspx>

A QR code to the interactive map will be included in the County

Voter Information Guide to replace the flat printed map. This simple change supports the County's GoGreen policy, is accessible to voters with disabilities and is fiscally responsible, saving the county over two (2) million pages of printed material and the associated mailing cost.

For more information, contact VRE at (916) 875-6451, email [voterinfo@saccounty.gov](mailto:voterinfo@saccounty.gov), or by using the toll-free voter assistance hotline at (800) 762-8019. The hotline has the ability to connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone).

### Key Election Dates

-Monday, February 5 - Mailing of ballots to all registered voters begins

-Monday, February 5 - Voted ballots may be returned in any of the Ballot Drop Boxes located throughout the County

-Monday, February

19 - Close of voter registration for this election. Voter registration forms must be postmarked by this date or delivered to the VRE Office at 7000 65th Street, Suite A, Sacramento 95823 by 5:00 p.m. Online voter registration must be completed before midnight on this date at [www.registertovote.ca.gov](http://www.registertovote.ca.gov)

-Tuesday, February 20 - Conditional Voter Registration (VBM) begins

-Saturday, February 24 - 11 Day Vote Centers open

-Tuesday, February 27 - Last day a Vote by Mail (VBM) ballot can be mailed to you. After this date, VBM ballots are only available at the VRE office or at any of the 90 Vote Centers

-Saturday, March 2 - All Vote Centers open throughout the County

-Tuesday, March 5 - Election Day

★

# SAFE Accepting Grant Applications for Financial Literacy Programs

### SAFE Credit Unit Press Release

**FOLSOM, CA. (MPG)** - In its drive to improve financial literacy in the Greater Sacramento region, SAFE Credit Union will grant \$20,000 to a nonprofit organization providing financial literacy and financial stability programs in underserved communities.

SAFE is accepting applications for the grant until Friday, Feb. 9, through its online application, or at <https://www.safecu.org/community/community-impact/funding/community-sustainability-grant-application-1>.

"Equipping people with the skills they need to take charge of their finances is one of our main motivations here at SAFE," says Vice President of Community Relations and Financial Education Rebecca Delmundo, adding only 27 percent of California's students attend schools that offer personal finance courses.

"It's essential for people to understand how to put aside savings, how interest rates and loans work, and how to handle debt for them to succeed in life. With so few students receiving formal financial literacy training, financial cooperatives like SAFE Credit Union and our nonprofit partners are stepping in to provide this much-needed education," she continues.

Only 1 percent of California students are required to complete personal financial education courses to graduate from high



**SAFE Credit Union Vice President Community Relations and Financial Education Rebecca Delmundo.** Photo courtesy of SAFE Credit Union.

school, according to state Department of Education statistics. There have been some political efforts to change that, with the Legislature recently considering proposals, and a 2024 ballot initiative in the works. However, the grant, says Delmundo, represents how SAFE and others in the region dedicated to providing financial education services are stepping in to fill the need now.

Delmundo says that young people especially can benefit from financial education programs since mistakes they may make early in life can affect them long into adulthood.

"It just takes one missed payment to harm a credit score," she says. "I've seen a lot of young people get buried in credit card debt while also tackling paying off student loans. I'm a strong proponent of helping people learn how to handle the finances they have now

so they can achieve their future financial goals."

SAFE offers its own financial education services through free webinars available to the public as well as workshops to employers and organizations. It also offers its no-cost Budget Cents interactive simulations to high schools in the region, where students get a first-hand look at the real-life expenses they'll face as adults. SAFE's high school branch program works closely with three area high schools to house a branch at each and provide supportive financial education for the students who staff the branches and their fellow students.

"There are a lot of us working to fill the financial education gap," says Delmundo. "And we are all keenly aware of how many people truly want this information. This grant helps us help others providing this service."

SAFE conducts four grant cycles each year as part of its overall philanthropic program that also includes direct giving, scholarships, sponsorships, and volunteerism.

For more information on SAFE's grant program and to contact VP Community Relations and Financial Education Rebecca Delmundo, please contact Assistant Vice President Communications and Public Relations Carole Ferguson at [carole.ferguson@safecu.org](mailto:carole.ferguson@safecu.org) or by phone at (916) 836-6312.

★

# Sacramento River Cats Join GOAL Sustainability Movement

### Sacramento River Cats News Release

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento River Cats and Sutter Health Park have joined a collective of major venues in sports and live entertainment across the globe as a member of the industry-wide GOAL sustainability platform to champion social impact, climate action, and responsible change.

GOAL, which was founded in October 2022 by Oak View Group (OVG), the Atlanta Hawks & State Farm Arena, Fenway Sports Group, and green building expert Jason F. McLennan, is a community of sustainability-minded sports and entertainment operators which provides venues at different points in their sustainability journeys with tactical roadmaps, easy-to-use tracking tools, a library of resources and case studies, and access to like-minded, leading operators, vendors, and solution-providers, all committed to operating more sustainably, more urgently.

Sutter Health Park joins a growing list of venues, representing legendary teams and iconic places of mass assembly committed to leading, learning, collaborating and, in all cases, making a positive impact on their communities and for the planet. GOAL supports each venue's sustainability journey through data collection and analysis in addition to providing sustainability strategy, communications support and corporate partner engagement.

The Sacramento River Cats and Sutter Health Park have been an active participant in implementing sustainable best practices which included the installation of stadium solar panels, the use of internal LED lights, and intentional recycling efforts across the organization which include a food waste diversion system. Additionally, in partnership with area businesses, the River Cats created the Sustainability Circle in 2015 to work collaboratively to cultivate sustainable practices and reduce their carbon footprint.

"We look forward to



continuing our renewable journey by joining the GOAL sustainability platform," said Chip Maxson, President/COO of the Sacramento River Cats. "This partnership will allow us to enhance our industry-leading efforts and further our commitment to keeping our region beautiful and healthy for generations to come."

The venues within GOAL represent different sports, different geographies, and different building types of varying sizes and ages, ensuring that the input and feedback is worthy of the diversity of the live entertainment and hospitality industry. Some venues are already leading the way when it comes to climate action, and others are just beginning their respective journeys. But in all cases, these venues are action-oriented, climate-minded, and understand the urgency required to address a changing planet.

Properties within GOAL include: Acrisure Arena (Greater Palm Springs, CA), Budweiser Gardens (London, ON), CFG Bank Arena (Baltimore, MD), Chip Ganassi Racing (Pittsburgh, PA), Citi Field (New York, NY), Climate Pledge Arena (Seattle, WA), Co-op Live (Manchester, UK), Fenway Sports Group (Boston, MA), Footprint Center (Phoenix, AZ), Frost Bank Center (San Antonio, TX), Gainbridge Fieldhouse (Indianapolis, IN), Los Angeles Dodgers (Los Angeles, CA), Levi's® Stadium (Santa Clara, CA), MGM Music Hall (Boston, MA), Miami Heat (Miami, FL), Moda Center (Portland, OR), Moody Center at

University of Texas Austin (Austin, TX), Mullett Arena at Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ), PPG Paints Arena (Pittsburgh, PA), Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse (Cleveland, OH), Sacramento River Cats (Sacramento, CA), Spectrum Center (Charlotte, NC), State Farm Arena (Atlanta, GA), Subaru Park (Chester, PA), Target Center (Minneapolis, MN), UBS Arena (Belmont Park, NY), Wrigley Field (Chicago, IL), Xcel Energy Center (St. Paul, MN)

"Our collection of GOAL venues represents forward-thinking venues across the sports, live entertainment and convention industry," said Chris Granger, OVG360 President. "I applaud Sutter Health Park for their leadership, for their spirit of collaboration, and for their understanding of the urgency demanded by climate change. I look forward to working with Chip Maxson and his team, learning from them, and sharing the very best ideas and best practices with our industry as we race against the clock, together."

OVG's Sustainability Director Kristen Fulmer added, "We designed GOAL to make sure that the data points and thresholds for leadership meet venues anywhere along their sustainability journey, engaging - and without shaming - venues that are just getting started, while also enhancing efforts in venues that already make an impact in a variety of different topics, from waste diversion, to water conservation, to improved indoor air quality." ★

# Living Trust Attorney

## Robert "Jeff" Busch

Living Trusts – Wills – Powers of Attorney

Trust Administration – Probate

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### FARM LABOR IN THORNTON, CALIFORNIA

The Housing Authority County of San Joaquin is now accepting applications for 2, 3 & 4 bedroom subsidized units for migrant families, it's required at least \$5,752.50 income from farm labor. Apply at the Sartini Manor Housing site @ 26188 Manor Drive Thornton, CA 95686.

Please contact Fabiola Davis @ 209-460-5071 if you have any questions.



### VIVIENDA PARA TRABAJADORES DE AGRICULTURA EN THORNTON, CALIFORNIA

La Autoridad de Vivienda del Condado de San Joaquin está aceptando aplicaciones para la lista de espera de casas de 2, 3 & 4 recamaras. Estas casas son para familias que trabajan en el campo; se requiere un ingreso mínimo de \$5,752.50 proveniente del trabajo agrícola. Presente su application en Sartini Manor Housing @ 26188 Manor Drive Thornton, CA 95686.

Comuníquese con Fabiola Davis al 209-460-5071 si tiene alguna pregunta.

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Galt, CA 95632 is doing business  
under the Fictitious Business  
Name(s) "Kmoney's Electric"  
9245 LAGUNA Springs Suite  
200, Elk Grove, CA 95758. Filed  
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County December 19, 2023  
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**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS**

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Galt, California, will receive sealed Bids as follows:

**BID DATE / TIME / AWARD DATE:** Thursday, MARCH 7, 2024 Until 10 A.M. (Local Time).

**SUBMIT BIDS TO:** City Clerk  
City of Galt  
380 Civic Drive  
Galt, CA 95632

**FOR:** City of Galt  
POLICE DEPARTMENT HVAC REHABILITATION,  
CIP 420A

**ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST:** \$135K - \$145K

**TOTAL CONTRACT TIME:** 45 working days

**CONTRACTOR'S CALIFORNIA LICENSE REQUIRED:** B – General Building Contractor

Notice is hereby further given that the Project is a public works project within the requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1 of the California Labor Code, and that each Bidder and all Subcontractors are required to be registered pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5 at the time of bidding. **Failure of the Bidder to be registered at the time of bidding shall render the Bid non-responsive and unavailable for award. A Subcontractor who is unregistered will not be permitted to work on the Project. If any Subcontractor required to be listed in the Bid is unregistered, that Subcontractor will be required to be substituted with a registered Subcontractor at no additional cost to the City and/or the listing of an unregistered Subcontractor may render the bid nonresponsive.**

City affirmatively identifies this project as a "public work" as Labor Code defines that term Section 1720, and the project is, therefore, subject to prevailing wages under Labor Code Section 1771. Contractor and its Subcontractors shall fully comply with all the provisions of the California Labor Code governing the performance of public works contracts including, but not limited to, payment of prevailing wages, limitations on time worked, compliance with apprentice requirements, maintenance of payroll records, posting of wages at the job site and prohibitions against discrimination. Prevailing wage determinations are available at [www.dir.ca.gov](http://www.dir.ca.gov). Those prevailing wage rates hereby are incorporated in this Contract and made a part hereof. (See General Provisions, Chapter 6.)

Submit Bids (original/no copies) and bid security in a sealed envelope, marked **Bid for POLICE DEPARTMENT HVAC REHABILITATION, CIP 420A** and include the company name and address on the envelope.

Contract Documents may be purchased and/or viewed online at Signature Reprographics, 620 Sunbeam Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95811, Office 916.454.0800, Fax 916.736.3053; or viewed at the City Clerk's office at 380 Civic Drive, Galt, CA 95632, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday. The non-refundable cost for each set from Signature Reprographics is set by their schedule of costs.

Complete sets of Contract Documents must be used in preparing Bids. The City does not assume responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of

Contract Documents. The City, in making copies of the Contract Documents available on the above terms, does so only for the purpose of obtaining Bids for the Work and does not confer license or grant for any other use.

Written questions regarding this Invitation for Bids should be directed to Trung Trinh by email at [ttrinh@CityofGalt.org](mailto:ttrinh@CityofGalt.org) no later than ten (10) calendar days before the time specified for opening Bids. The City will issue addenda seven (7) calendar days, or as deemed appropriate, prior to the time specified for opening Bids. All emails shall require verification of receipt by sender in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. Bidders shall develop and submit Bids at their own expense. The City will not reimburse any costs associated with the development and submittal of any and all Bids.

Each Bid must be submitted on the Bid Forms provided in the Contract Documents. The Bid must be submitted and received by the City Clerk no later than the time and date prescribed. The clock located in the City Clerk's office is considered the official local time. Bid submissions received after the designated time will not be opened and will be returned to the Bidder unopened. Telephones will not be available to Bidders at the City's offices for the preparation of Bids.

Each bid shall also have a **STATEMENT OF EXPERIENCE**, which provides contact information, and project descriptions of similar work as advertised herein. The statement shall be on the Contractor's own form/letterhead.

Each Bid must also be accompanied by security in the form of a Bidder's Bond issued by a corporate surety, a certified check, or cashier's check payable to the City of Galt, or cash. The amount of the bid security must be not less than ten percent (10%) of the Total Bid Price, consisting of the total base bid plus the total additive bid alternates. The successful Bidder shall be required to execute a Material and Labor Payment Bond and Performance Bond, issued by a corporate surety, in conformance with the requirements set forth in the Contract Documents, each for not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price.

If the lowest responsive, responsible bidder fails or refuses to execute any Contract for the Project, the City may, in its discretion, award the Contract to the second lowest, responsive responsible bidder. If the second lowest responsible, responsible bidder fails or refuses to execute any Contract for the Project, the City may, in its discretion, award that and all other Contracts for the Project to the third lowest, responsive responsible bidder. Any Bidder to whom any Contract for the Project is awarded who fails to execute the Contract and file acceptable bonds and insurance certificates as required in the Contract Documents will have its Bid Guarantee forfeited.

Pursuant to California Public Contracts Code, any contract awarded pursuant to this Notice to Contractors shall obtain a provision permitting, at the Contractors' sole expense, the substitution of securities for any moneys withheld to ensure performance under the Contract. The terms of such provisions shall be according to the requirements of the Public Contracts Code Section 22300.

No Bid received and read aloud may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the bid opening date, except pursuant to California Public Contract Code Section 5101 et seq.

The City reserves the right to award the Contract, to reject any or all Bids, to waive non-material and inconsequential irregularities in any Bid, and to reject nonconforming, nonresponsive, non-responsible, or conditional Bids.

Michael Selling, P.E.  
Public Works Director  
City of Galt

Date

The Galt Herald 1-26-2024

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-05**

On January 16, 2024 at a regular meeting commencing at 6:00 pm, the City Council of the City of Galt adopted the following ordinance:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-05**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALT, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE DISTRICT ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF GALT FOR THE LIPPI RANCH SUBDIVISION PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, on November 16, 2023, the Planning Commission of the City of Galt held a duly noticed public hearing and recommended that the City Council approve a change of zone from Low-Density Single-Family Residential (R1A) to Medium/High-Density Multiple Family Residential Planned Development (R3-PD) for the 8.99 acre site located east of Freedom Boulevard / 2nd Street, at the terminus of 3rd Street and west of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks ("Project Site"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission based its recommendation to approve the requested rezone on the findings set forth below and the proposed adoption of an Environmental Impact Report and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 19, 2023, the City Council held duly noticed public hearing at which all persons wishing to testify in connection with the rezone were heard and the proposed rezone was comprehensively reviewed; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has approved Resolution No. 2023-88 approving and adopting the Environmental Impact Report and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program prepared for the proposed rezone, General Plan amendment, and associated entitlements, pursuant to the provisions and requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Res. Code § 21000 et seq.: "CEQA") and the City Council finds that the documentation prepared complies therewith.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALT, CALIFORNIA**, does ordain as follows:

- SECTION 1. Purpose.**
- SECTION 2. Findings.**
- SECTION 3. Rezone.**
- SECTION 4. No Mandatory Duty of Care.**
- SECTION 5. Severability.**
- SECTION 6. Effective Date.**
- SECTION 7. Notice.**

The foregoing ordinance was introduced and the title thereof read at the regular meeting of the City Council the 19th day of December, 2023 and by unanimous vote of the Council members present, further reading was waived.

Upon a motion by Council Member Lozano, seconded by Council Member Vandenburg, the foregoing ordinance was duly passed and adopted by the City Council members present, of the City of Galt at a regular meeting, this 16th day of January, 2024, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:	Council Members:	Lozano, Farmer, Vandenburg, Sandhu
NOES:	Council Members:	
ABSTAIN:	Council Members:	
ABSENT:	Council Members:	Papineau

/s/ Paul Sandhu  
MAYOR, City of Galt

ATTEST:  
/s/ Tina Hubert  
City Clerk, City of Galt

**A certified copy of the full text of this ordinance is posted in and available for public review at the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Galt, located at 380 Civic Drive, Galt, California**

The Galt Herald 1-26-2024

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD AND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE CAL-WASTE SOLID WASTE TRANSFER FACILITY PROJECT**

The City of Galt Community Development Department is the Lead Agency for the proposed Cal- Waste Solid Waste Transfer Facility Project (proposed project). In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared to notify responsible agencies, interested parties, and organizations that the City of Galt plans to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed project. The NOP and Initial Study are available online at: <https://www.cityofgalt.org/government/community-development/planning/development-projects-environmental-documents>

**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

The 23.56-acre project site is located at 10059 Twin Cities Road, northwest of the intersection of Twin Cities Road and State Route (SR) 99/Stockton Boulevard, in the City of Galt, California. The project site is a portion of a 247.54-acre parcel identified by Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 148-001-0053, which is owned by the City of Galt. The project site is primarily comprised of irrigated agricultural land, with a few unimproved roads throughout. The site is bound by an existing, paved access road along the southern site boundary. Undeveloped agricultural land occurs to the north, south, and west. Surrounding existing uses include the City of Galt Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to the east. The City of Galt General Plan designates the site as Public/Quasi- Public (PQ) and the site is zoned PQ.

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:**

The 30-day public review period for the NOP is from **January 26, 2024 to February 26, 2024**. Written comments regarding the scope of the EIR are invited from all interested parties and should be submitted no later than 5:00 PM on February 26, 2024 and directed to the following address:

City of Galt Community Development Department  
ATTN: Kristyn Bitz, Senior Planner  
495 Industrial Drive Galt, CA 95632  
Or by email at: [kbitz@cityofgalt.org](mailto:kbitz@cityofgalt.org)

**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING:**

A public scoping meeting will be held on **February 8, 2024, starting at 6:00 PM** before the City of Galt Planning Commission. The doors will open at 5:30 PM and the meeting begins at 6:00 PM. The Planning Commission meets in the Council Chambers at 380 Civic Drive, Galt, CA 95632. The purpose of the meeting will be to receive verbal and/or written comments from the public on the NOP. If you have any specific questions concerning the proposed project, you may contact Kristyn Bitz, Senior Planner at [kbitz@cityofgalt.org](mailto:kbitz@cityofgalt.org) or at (209) 366-7230.

**NOTICE REGARDING CHALLENGES TO DECISIONS**

Pursuant to all applicable laws and regulations, including without limitation, California Government Sections 65009, 66020, and/or California Public Resources Code Section 21177, if you wish to challenge in court any of the above decisions (regarding planning, zoning and/or environmental decisions), you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing(s) described in this notice/agenda, or in written correspondence delivered to the city at, or prior to, this public hearing.

Dated: January 26, 2024

/s/ Kristyn Bitz  
Kristyn Bitz, Senior Planner Director

/s/ Tina Hubert  
Tina Hubert, City Clerk

The Galt Herald 1-26-2024



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# End January With Yummy Peanut Brittle

Happy National Peanut Brittle Day! According to the National Day Calendar, today we recognize the hard, flat candy confection that is enjoyed worldwide. The candy's buttery, nutty texture makes for a delicious treat and can be made at home. But it is so much easier to go to a candy store and buy some, and you can get sugar-free brittle that tastes just like the original candy. Yum!

Peanut brittle includes caramelized sugar or corn syrup. Nuts are added to the molten, sugary liquid and then poured onto a flat surface such as granite or marble and smoothed into a thin sheet. The candy cools into

a hard, brittle treat broken into smaller pieces. Some of the best brittles are hand-stretched into a thin, easily cracked candy that melts in the mouth.

The history of peanut brittle is uncertain, though one legend says it was all a mistake. The story goes that a Southern woman was making taffy, and instead of using cream of tartar, she used baking soda by accident. Needless to say, it's been a brittle search, but so far we haven't been able to break through to the origins of this sweet holiday. LOL! I crack myself up. I wish I could claim the last sentence, but it is a paraphrase from National Day Calendar.

A little trivia: The sugar for the brittle must be cooked to 300 degrees Fahrenheit, called the hard crack stage. This makes the candy hard, with a snap to it. Stretching the sugar once it cools to a malleable temperature gives the brittle a delicate, brittle texture. Peanut brittle can be frozen for up to three months in a freezer-safe container. Sounds easy-peasy. Maybe I will make some this weekend.

Alright, this is crazy. January is almost over! Shoot-fire! We just barely finished celebrating Christmas; now January is on its way into February next week. Where did January go? Hopefully, if

you made a New Year's resolution or two, you are still working on them. My resolution is to have my family's cell phone numbers memorized, and I am working on the extended family. But I tell you: If I miss more than two days of repeating those numbers, I find myself hesitating to recall the numbers. Well, practice makes perfect, and I have a lot of practicing to do.

Do you know what "fries my pie"? When people call me Ms. Siegalkoff. I have a gold band on my left ring finger for a reason: I am Mrs. Siegalkoff. So I gently wave my left hand and correct them, and then they call me by my first name. Ugh! Trying not to be snarky, I

let them know again, Mrs. Siegalkoff, and I didn't give them permission to call me by my first name. I fear manners are being overlooked. And that is a travesty. Maybe we need to add learning manners to the curriculum.

And another irritant: people who don't do their research. They just talk to hear themselves speak, and when called on their discrepancies they say, "No big deal. Nobody really cares." Really? You just gave inaccurate information, but it's OK? And I guess maybe it is, because there are people who have stretched the truth so much no one believes them anyway. Sad. We must hope God turns a light bulb on

for those self-absorbed people soon before it is too late. God has a plan.

Recipe of the day: Peanut brittle

Flower of the day: Cactus flowers

**Dates to remember:**

Feb. 2 - Groundhog Day

Feb. 12 - Abraham Lincoln's birthday; all Galt high school district schools are closed.

Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday

Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day

Feb. 19 - President's Day; government offices and schools are closed.

Feb. 29 - Leap Day; there are 29 days in February, and no, it is not a holiday.

Until next week - Be strong, be courageous, make a memory. ★

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**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- Sri Lankan language
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- Muscat resident
- "\_\_\_\_\_ Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"
- Father, colloquially
- Jewish folklore creature
- Debtor's letters
- Art class prop
- \*Barbie's little sister
- \*\_\_\_\_\_ 4 game
- One less than jack
- \*\_\_\_\_\_ Frog educational toy
- Nutcracker's distinguishing feature
- Taboo, alt. sp.
- Cooking fat
- Deserter's acronym
- President's David
- Shower accessory
- Pro \_\_\_\_\_
- Conical dwellings
- Prep flour
- \*Thomas or Henry, e.g.
- Law school test acronym
- Genealogist's creation
- Maurice of "Where the Wild Things Are"
- Flying saucers
- Make mistakes
- Chemically-induced curls
- Harry Potter's Hedwig
- \*Certain Patch
- \*Not real dough
- Normal
- Clingy seed container
- \_\_\_\_\_ -la
- Theater curtain fabric
- Put into service
- Female deer, pl.
- Pub offering
- Go on a trunk
- What's in your e-wallet?

**DOWN**

- Duds or threads
- Wildly
- French Sudan after 1960
- All thumbs
- Marine gastropod
- Coconut fiber
- \*Shedding-type card game
- Tie in tennis
- Shark's provision
- Part of cathedral
- Work detail
- "Stop!" to marchers
- Correspondence friend (2 words)
- Make, as in a law
- Edible type of grass
- Complete payment (2 words)
- \*Banned lawn darts
- Fully informed
- Supreme Teutonic god
- Get-out-of-jail money
- Like Neverland boys
- France's longest river
- Bid on a house, e.g.
- \*Certain gun ammo
- "Best \_\_\_\_\_ schemes o'Mice an' Men"
- "La Vie en rose" singer
- Counter seat

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# LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE

PRESENTED BY THE GALT HERALD

## Liberty Ranch Girls Basketball Outscores Galt



Galt's Emily Pena goes for a layup. Photos by Paige Lampson



Warrior Akayla-Joy Gunter shoots from the 3-point line.

By Paige Lampson  
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Lady Warriors headed across town to face Liberty Ranch last Friday. The Warriors only had five girls to play the match against Liberty Ranch. Two of Galt's roster also play soccer and as luck would have it, that cross town game was the same night at the same time and they chose to play that sport.

The Warriors played valiantly with no rest and no breaks the entire evening against the Hawks and lost 68-11.

Akayla-Joy Gunter was the main scorer for Galt with 10-points and Emily Pena scored the other on a free throw.

Liberty had a plethora of scorers starting with Haley Smith-23, Kamrynn Blevins-11, Summer McCoy-8, Madisyn Robbins-7, Sophia Felix-6, Kendall Duryee-4, Jazleen Sandhu-4, Natalia Escalera-3, and Aneesa Barnes-2.

Hawk head coach Josh Williams believes his team did what directed to do. "We played hard," said Williams. "We played good basketball. Those situations can be tough at times but I like the way we competed; I like the way we shared the ball. I am happy we are able to hold the standard regardless of who



Liberty's Aneesa Barnes shoots and scores.

we play."

Warrior head coach Josh Dela Cruz was proud of his exhausted players. "The girls played hard," said Dela Cruz. "It wasn't easy without a break the whole game, but the girls stuck with it and I am very proud of them." ★



Hawk Natalia Escalera dribbles the ball and tries to get an opening.

## Hawk Boys Basketball Beats the Warriors 47-37

By Paige Lampson  
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Hawk basketball team headed over to the Warrior gym for their first match of the season earlier this month. The Hawks won 47-37 and will face the Warriors one more time at home on January 30th.

So far this season the Hawks are in 5th place in league and the Warriors are in 6th.

Ryan Martin was the lead scorer for Liberty Ranch with 11 points followed by Elliot Hawker-8, Yousef Diab-7, Andrew Cadiz-6, Cameron Hudson-4, Wyatt Blevins-4, Jimmy Lopez-3, Derek Nelson-3, and Joseph Adams-1.

Ryan Martin and Elliot Hawker led with 7 rebounds each.

Stats have not been posted for the Warriors. ★



Galt's Wilson Garcia tries for a basket with Liberty Ranch's Jimmy Lopez going for the block. Photos by Paige Lampson



Warriors Brian Gomez and Zavion Mitchell grapple with Hawk Ryan Martin to come up with the ball.



Liberty's Kobe Aguilien guards Galt's Joshua Dimapilis as he dribbles.



Liberty's Ryan Martin goes up for a basket while Galt's Carson Cagle blocks.

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# LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE

PRESENTED BY THE GALT HERALD

## Galt High's Miguel Garcia #1 Scorer in the Nation

### Garcia Breaks School Soccer Goal Record

By Paige Lampson  
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Miguel Garcia has been playing soccer since he was four years old. This is Garcia's senior year at Galt High and he is almost unstoppable on the soccer field. He rose to the section leader in points and goals very early in the season, but now he has surpassed everyone in the Nation and is the High School Boys Soccer leader in Goals and Points.

So far this season Garcia has scored 46 goals and 22 assists for a total of 114 points with three regular games left to play and at least one playoff. The next closest players are from Louisiana and Texas and their season is over. Points are counted by combining goals for 2-points and assists for 1-point. The previous Galt High record was 44 goals set by Isaac Martinez.

Before his high school years, he played for Stockton TOJ, Sac United, IR and Galt teams. He currently plays for Galt High School and the Real Galt FC which is a local UPSF league semi-pro.

Garcia has played on Galt's very successful



Garcia scores on a penalty kick. Photos by Paige Lampson

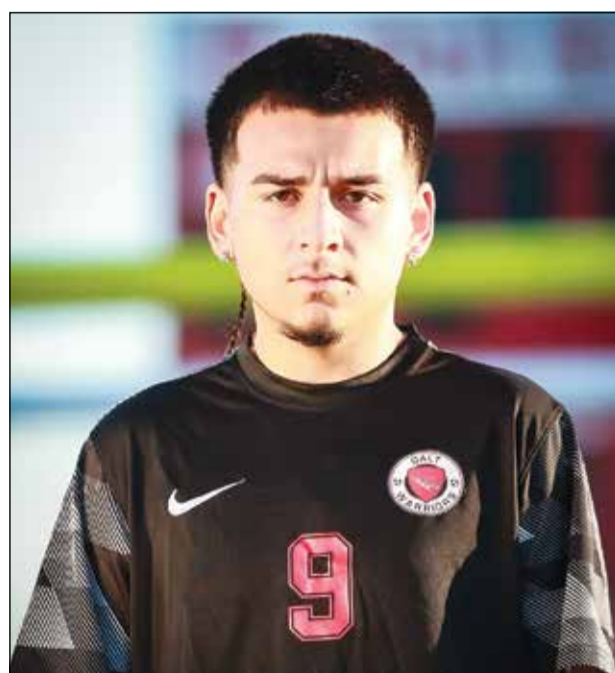
varsity soccer team since his freshman year. This editor had the pleasure of teaching Garcia in a PE class his freshman year where he always had a soccer ball with him and would try to talk me into playing soccer after they finished their track laps. Sometimes I gave in, if the class finished their assignment in time. Garcia was a leader even then and would encourage his classmates to perform their PE duties in due haste so they could kick the ball around longer.

When asked what his strategy is Garcia responds that he waits for the opportunity. "I don't really have a strategy," said Garcia. "I wait for a good time to score and if it is not coming, patience is key until the goals come."

Galt Principal Kellie Beck is impressed with everything Garcia is accomplishing. "I am incredibly proud of Miguel and his accomplishments on and off the soccer field," said Beck. "He is so fun to watch. What most people don't know is what

an amazing young man he is off the field. Miguel has overcome some difficult times in his life, yet he never gave up on himself or the love of the game of soccer. That is what is most admirable to see in a student athlete. I will miss him when he graduates but his record and legacy at Galt High will live on and so will his impact on those around him."

Believe it or not, Garcia has not scored at every game this season. He has however assisted every game.



Galt High Soccer Captain Miguel Garcia

"It's not always about me scoring," said Garcia. "We have a great team with lots of talent and the win is more important than who scores."

Alejandro Renteria, a teacher at Galt High and Warrior head soccer coach says Garcia is selfless. "I have been coaching Miguel since his freshman year and playing alongside him this past year," said Renteria. "Miguel is a special player all around. He works quietly and does his talking with his feet. He's a very humble athlete and doesn't listen to

what other have to say about him. He believes in his own ability as well as everyone else around him. He is selfless and wants to win for his family and his team."

What does it feel like to be from our small town of Galt and be number one nationally? "It feels great," says Garcia. "It feels like something has been going well, but at the end of the day, it doesn't really mean anything. I have to keep going to keep scoring until we take League, then Sections and even above that." ★

## Galt Chiefs Accept \$1,800 Donation



Every year Galt Chiefs, Galt's Special Olympics team, partners with St. Christopher's Knights of Columbus Chapter 9836 for the Tootsie Roll Drive fundraiser. Our athletes enjoy getting out into the community to build awareness of their program and to help raise money for their team. Galt Chief athletes participate in soccer, basketball, bocce, and bowling throughout the year. The money raised goes towards equipment and uniforms. Thank you, Galt Walmart, and Save mart for your participation. Thank you, Knights of Columbus, for your continued support. The Special Olympic athletes look forward to and appreciate this yearly fundraiser.

## Hawks Shut Out Galt Soccer

By Paige Lampson  
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Lady Warriors hosted the Lady Hawks in their first cross-town soccer match of the season. The Hawks won 5-0 and continue their first-place reign in League play.

The Warriors are also having a fantastic season and remain second in League play with this being their only loss.

Hawk head coach Rob Huarte wasn't taking anything for granted. "I thought that we pinged the ball around very well versus the warriors on Friday night," said Huarte. "We have been working very hard on our possession game in practice. Stressing finding feet, accuracy and weight of pass. The team has made huge improvements in both chemistry and communication on the pitch. We have put together a very respectable 9 game winning streak."

"Maryn Rogers led the Hawks with 3 goals and Libby Portillo scored the other 2 goals. Natalie Merlin led the Hawks with 2 assists and Eliana Enriquez, Ellie Keiser and Kennedy Arechiga all had 1 assist each."

Liberty goalie Zia Ruppert had 11 saves while the Galt goalie Kylee Chapman had 13 saves and 5 goals against.

The Warriors have been plagued by injuries this year.

"It's been the story of the whole season," said Warrior head coach Oscar Corona. "If it's not one thing, its another. I am really proud of the people that have stepped. There were people that weren't supposed to start, but they are starting and they have stepped up and are taking care of business." ★



Warrior Jayden Soto tries to get past Alora Lopez to get to the ball. Photos by Paige Lampson



Galt's Maya Hernandez slides under Liberty Ranch's Kennedy Arechiga as she gets close to the goal.



Hawk goalie Zia Ruppert snags a ball out of the air.



Warrior Bayley Miller battles Hawk Maryn Rogers.



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