

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY UPDATE

August 30, 2013

WALMART UPDATE

Walmart has obtained their building permit and a groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for Thursday Sept 5 at 11:00 a.m.

HOUSING ELEMENT PUBLIC WORKSHOP

There will be a workshop on the Draft 2013-2021 Housing Element at the September 3rd City Council meeting. It is the final workshop for the current Housing Element. Staff is planning on bringing the Housing Element back to City Council on September 17th for authorization to submit the draft to HCD and all comments will be incorporated.

TWIN CITIES ROUNDABOUTS

Roundabout educational material has been placed on the City's website, <http://www.ci.galt.ca.us/>. There are two videos and information regarding the overall project concept, benefits of a roundabout and roundabout driving tips. One video provides a concept of what it is like to drive a roundabout. The second video is a testimonial of how Glen Falls, NY citizens, who initially opposed the construction of a roundabout, fell in love with it after it was built.

WATER METER FINANCING

As authorized by Council on August 20th, staff signed a commitment letter on Wednesday with BBVA Compass to finance the water meter project. Parameters authorized by Council were not to exceed the following: principal amount \$3,100,000, costs of issuance \$100,000, 15 year term, and interest rate of 4%. Finance staff was successful in locking in the following via a private placement "loan": \$3,075,000 principal, costs of issuance \$75,000, 15 year term, and fixed interest rate of 3.04%! Staff will continue to work on executing the financing documents within the required 60 day period.

EMERGENCY SEWER LINE REPAIR ON MCFARLAND STREET

City staff discovered a large underground cavity from a damaged sewer joint during routine maintenance work on McFarland Street, just north of A Street. The damaged joint was located 20 ft below ground and adjacent to a major sewer force main. Due to the depth of the repair work, shoring requirements and the potential for a sewer force main collapse, City staff enlisted the assistance of a reputable contractor using emergency procurement procedures. Working collaboratively with City crews, the emergency repairs were completed within 48 hours of discovery of the problem.

ENCROACHMENT PERMIT ACTIVITY

Comcast's contractor is installing dedicated internet connections for Lake Canyon and Marengo Ranch Elementary Schools. Residents along Lake Canyon Ave and Elk Hills Drive may be temporarily inconvenienced as horizontal boring operations are underway within the existing Public Utilities Easement.

SCT/LINK- STUDENT SERVICES

With school back in session, reduced levels of school busing (due to school districts' budget cutbacks) are generating complaints that SCT/Link is not providing adequate services to meet student transportation needs. Typical complaints include:

- Not enough buses

- Long waiting list for “subscription reservations” to school
- Bus schedule doesn’t match school schedule

Frustrated parents are looking to SCT/Link to backfill service cutbacks in school district busing programs. However, the SCT/Link Dial-a-Ride program is not resourced or designed to meet this need. Funding regulations limit the amount of service that can be dedicated to student busing, and require that space remain available for other transit needs (e.g., senior and disabled passengers). The Dial-a-Ride program is not a fixed route program on a set schedule. As a result, specific pick-up and drop-off times cannot be guaranteed and will vary depending on ridership and destinations. A 30-minute pick-up and up to one hour drop-off window will typically be given to passengers making reservations. Citizens with concerns about student busing availability should contact their respective school district.

POLICE OFFICER RECRUITMENT

Our newest officer, Brooke Bash, started Monday, August 26th. Brooke previously worked at the California Department of State Hospitals in Napa as a police officer. Another new officer, Jonathan Johnson will start on Monday, September 9th. Jonathan previously worked for the Stockton Unified School District Police Department.