



May 2020



## *From the Archives* **1924 Galt High School Fire**

A photograph from June 1924 shows the aftermath of a fire that destroyed the main building at Galt High School. The fire started in the basement furnace room and was believed to be started intentionally. High school employee Malcolm Ireland found the fire just after midnight and called for help. By the time the fire apparatus arrived, all firemen could do was save the other structures. Galt Constable Frank Sutton called Sacramento County Sheriff's Deputies, who determined it was arson but could find no suspect. Workers demolished the remaining shell and installed temporary buildings for the next school year. The iconic Spanish style main school building was completed for the 1927-1928 school year.

## **Liberty School House Update**

As we said in the past, the foundation is in place, donated by Basinger Concrete of Galt. It is almost ready for Scott House Movers to come back and lower the house. Look at the picture within the newsletter of the schoolhouse as it sits. We do have a grant from the city and some donations coming in to restore the schoolhouse. We are looking into pricing for historical restoration.



# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As a member of our Galt Area Historical Society you play an important role in protecting and preserving our historical records and also interpret the past to the public, especially our younger Galtonian. Each year that you renew your membership you join us in our mission of engaging and empowering each other to make history a meaningful part of our contemporary lives. Your membership helps preserve the legacy of our ancestors, commemorate local heroes and preserve our historic architecture. Our members in GAHS help answer the Who, What, Why, Where and When questions that make historical societies important. It puts those of us in the present in touch with the people of the past who shaped our landscape, named our landmarks, and made the decisions that ultimately affect us today.

We would like to welcome our new members to the Historical Society that joined recently: Mark King, Amber Veselka & Roger Watson. We look forward to meeting you in person!

A great big thank you to all annual members who have paid their 2020 dues. We are 100%, which is the first time since I have been chairperson. Also, within our membership area, remember to please contact us for any address, phone or email changes that you have. We need to have updated addresses or it costs us each time a newsletter is returned for incorrect address. But more important is we want to keep everyone updated and informed of all our events and activities!

Please email any concerns to Rhonda Smith, [rhonda@galtsmiths.com](mailto:rhonda@galtsmiths.com) or call, 209-745-4504.

---

## 2020 Historical Society Executive Board

Janis Barsetti Gray ~ President  
Lyle Lagge ~ 1st Vice President  
Harry Souders ~ 2nd Vice President  
Liz Haglund ~ Recording Secretary  
Toni Gerling ~ Corresponding Secretary  
Bobbi Lewis ~ Treasurer  
Dan Tarnasky ~ Historian

---



## A Message From The President

I hope that all of you, your families, and your friends remain safe and healthy. It seems like there is a little light at the end of the tunnel. It remains to be seen, how soon we can resume our regular activities. Many of you are frustrated that you have to stay home or can only go out for essentials. Small businesses have been hurt as well. Thankfully, our community has rallied and supported many of the businesses by shopping local. As a small business owner, I have chosen to take this as an opportunity to take a look at my operation and make improvements so when we open back up completely, it will be a positive for my business. What is the saying, from something bad, comes something good. People can complain, but how does that help. We just have to "recharge" and be ready. Being positive is much more beneficial than being negative.

I know that our volunteers who have remained doing chores, are practicing safe social distancing at the McFarland. They have accomplished much during this time period. The Ranch will be in top shape; and when we open the gates at the Ranch again, we will be "ahead of the game." There still is a lot of cleanup and organizing in the upstairs at the Rae. Once we get the go ahead, Dan will be needing help.

We have all spent more time in our homes than we have for a long time. I actually found a lot to do. Just reflecting, getting chores done, cleaning up, and organizing has been great. What I enjoyed was having the time to go through old photos of my grandparents, parents, and when we were kids. I started sharing some with

family members who did not have the photos I had. Those photos also allowed for stories to be told that some had never heard before. It is kind of like having your life flash in front of you. The memories just flowed out. I also had friends shared photos of my dad when he played softball in the early 50's. Dan posted one in Snapshots of Galt History. Apparently, many of us were doing the same thing: Reliving some of our history and sharing it with others. I also took the time to go through my mothers and grandmothers old recipes. I could almost taste the food. In those days, they did not have all the fancy kitchen equipment. They truly prepared everything with love and hard work.

Maybe slowing down is a good thing: Enjoying the present and reflecting back to the past. We do get so busy rushing around that we dismiss any memories until later. I had an uncle who used to say all the time, "it's later than you think." Now is the time to do the things we have put off because we said we did not have time: Or was it that we did not make the time. Maybe we have been forced to make the time now, so use it in a positive way. I envy our ancestors. They may have not had all that we have today, but they were happy with what they had. Life was hard, but spending time with their family was important.

Maybe when we get back to normal, we can still take the time for ourselves, our family, and our history. Be safe and healthy; and remember what I like to say, whatever you are doing today, will be history tomorrow.

Janis Barsetti Gray



The Barsetti Family Happily  
Celebrating 108 Years in Galt

# Barsetti Vineyards®

**Wine Tasting  
& Boutique**

**Barsetti Wine Tasting Room**  
Cover charge for live music. Fee waived for wine club members

**LIVE  
MUSIC**  
Friday's 6:30-9 PM

**Old Town Galt | 400 4<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 150 | 209.744.6062**  
Open: Thurs, Sat, Sun Noon-5 p.m. | Fri, Noon-9 p.m. | Closed: Mon, Tues & Wed

 [ricjan@barsettinineyards.com](mailto:ricjan@barsettinineyards.com) | [www.barsettinineyards.com](http://www.barsettinineyards.com) 



# Policy and Procedure Review

## Document Retention Schedule

- I. Purpose:  
Documents (hardcopy, online or other media) should be retained, protected and eligible for destruction. Documents should be promptly provided to authorities as needed.
- II. Related Documentation:  
GAHS corporate, financial, tax, personnel, insurance, contractual, donations, business plans, and computer based documents
- III. Procedure:
  1. Documents (hardcopy, online and other media) will be stored in a protected environment for the duration of the Document Retention Schedule. Computer backup media will be included.
  2. Hardcopy of documents and copies of computer backups will be destroyed by shredding or other proven means to destroy after they have been retained until the end of the Document Retention Schedule.
  3. Documents requested and/or subpoenaed by legally authorized personnel will be provided within the time stipulated by State law.
  4. The following types of documents will be retained for the following periods of time. At least one copy of each document will be retained according to the following schedule.

### Corporate Records:

Articles of Incorporation .....	Permanent
IRS Form 1023 .....	Permanent
IRS Letter of Determination .....	Permanent
By Laws .....	Permanent
Policies and Procedures .....	Permanent
Resolutions .....	Permanent
Board Meeting Minutes .....	Permanent
IRS/State Tax Identification .....	Permanent
Number Notice .....	Permanent
Annual Corporate Filings .....	Permanent

### Financial Records:

Chart of Accounts .....	Permanent
Audits .....	Permanent
Financial Statements .....	Permanent
General Ledger .....	Permanent
Check Register/Books .....	7 Years
Business Expense Documents .....	7 Years
Bank Deposit Slips .....	7 Years
Cancelled Checks .....	7 Years
Invoices .....	7 Years
Investment Records .....	7 Years
Property/Asset Inventories .....	7 Years
Petty Cash Receipts/Documents .....	7 Years
Credit Card Receipts .....	7 Years

### Tax Records:

Annual Tax Filing (IRS Form 990) .....	Permanent
Payroll Registers .....	Permanent
IRS Form 1096 and 1099s .....	7 Years
Payroll Tax Withholdings .....	7 Years
Earnings Records .....	7 Years
Payroll Tax Returns .....	7 Years
W-2 Statements .....	7 Years

### Personnel Records:

Employee Contracts .....	Permanent
Employee Applications .....	Permanent
and Resumes .....	7 Years After Termination
Employee Performance .....	Permanent
Evaluations .....	7 Years After Termination
Letters of Reprimand .....	7 Years After Termination
or Termination .....	7 Years After Termination
Workers' Compensation Records .....	7 Years
I-9 Forms, W-4 Forms .....	7 Years After Termination
Time Reports .....	7 Years After Termination

### Insurance Records:

Property Insurance Policy .....	Permanent
Directors and Officers .....	Permanent
Insurance Policy .....	Permanent
Workers' Compensation .....	Permanent
Insurance Policy .....	Permanent
General Liability Insurance Policy .....	Permanent
Insurance Claims Applications .....	Permanent
Insurance Disbursements/Denials .....	Permanent

### Contracts:

All Insurance Contracts .....	Permanent
Employee Contracts .....	Permanent
Construction Contracts .....	Permanent
Legal Correspondence .....	Permanent
Loan/Mortgage Contracts .....	Permanent
Leases/Deeds .....	Permanent
Master Plan - McFarland .....	Permanent
Living History Ranch .....	Permanent
Rental Contracts - .....	Permanent
MLHR/Rae House Museum .....	Permanent
Vendor Contracts .....	Permanent
Warranties .....	Permanent

### Donation/Fund Records:

Grants .....	Permanent
Donor Lists .....	7 Years
Grant Applications .....	7 Years
Donor Acknowledgements .....	7 Years

### Management Plans and Procedures:

Business Plan .....	Permanent
Vendor Contacts .....	7 Years

### Email and Other

### Computer-Based Correspondence:

Volunteer/Employee .....	Permanent
Correspondence/Emails .....	7 Years

The Tower Views  
is printed by  
Express Type & Graphics  
740 Spaans Drive #2  
Galt, CA 95632  
209 . 745 . 2334

## Calendar

CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Open House at Rae

ZOOM MEETING

Monday | May 11 | 4pm

Executive Board Meeting

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

General Membership Meetings

Dates and times are subject to change



J & J Heating & Air provides high quality, professional customer service done right the first time to create comfortable, healthy, safe, and energy efficient places to live and work.

**Air Conditioning • Heating • Plumbing  
Duct Cleaning • Blown-In Insulation**

*For Quality and Dependability Call*

**J & J Heating & Air, Inc.**

**209.744.8114**

[www.jjheat.com](http://www.jjheat.com)

## FLORAL DESIGNS

Weddings • Quinceañeras  
Corporate Events

**209.745.0726**

J.M. Enterprises

Joan Werblun  
Owner



## LAW OFFICE OF LEN REIDREYNOSO

TRUSTS • WILLS • PROBATES  
CONTRACTS • BANKRUPTCY • BUSINESS  
WE ARE A DEBT RELIEF AGENCY

908 C STREET  
GALT, CA

209-745-4411

IN GALT SINCE 2002



MEMBER OF  
GALT BUSINESS BUILDERS  
[WWW.GALTBUSINESSBUILDERS.COM](http://WWW.GALTBUSINESSBUILDERS.COM)



# Reminder for the Big Day of Giving

This year, for the first time, the Galt Area Historical Society is participating in the Big Day of Giving. This event is a 24-hour giving challenge that brings together the region's nonprofit community to help raise much needed unrestricted funds and shine a spotlight on the work nonprofits do to make the Sacramento region the place we call home. In 2019, over 600 organizations generated a record \$8.4 million in a single day. This community-wide effort fortified their collaborations with nonprofit colleagues, deepened their engagements with donors, and strengthened their impact in our community.

The Galt Area Historical Society has projects that need your help. The Liberty Schoolhouse has been moved to the Rae House Museum grounds and is awaiting restoration. The Rae House museum itself needs a historical display upgrade. Go to [www.bigdayofgiving.org/GaltHistory](http://www.bigdayofgiving.org/GaltHistory) to donate. All major credit cards are accepted (Mastercard, Visa, Discover, Amex), and the minimum donation allowed is \$15. If you do not want to donate online, you can send a check to The Galt Area Historical Society P.O. Box 782 Galt, CA 95632.

This year's Big Day of Giving is Thursday, May 7, 2020, but you can donate after April 20 for it to count in the total. For those of you who have donated already this year, thank you very much. You can give again or encourage others to participate in the event. For those who have not donated this year, here is another opportunity to do so. This is also an opportunity for another family member or friend to become a member and give at the same time. All our membership dues are listed in the donation amounts. Encourage as many friends and relatives as you can. Let's make a great showing!

## Liberty Cemetery Cleanup

Last week, our neighbors near the McFarland Ranch, Gallo Vineyards, mowed the grounds of the Liberty Cemetery. See enclosed pictures. We are so thankful for their help each year at the Liberty. The Board has approved Acampo Tree Service to come to take down and take away the heavy oak limb hanging down. That will probably happen before you read this newsletter. It will be so nice to be able to identify and place flags on the graves of the veterans before Memorial Day. Thanks to our one, Eric Schneider for keeping both cemeteries groomed. He will have the Clampers back to do other work once it is safe to do so.





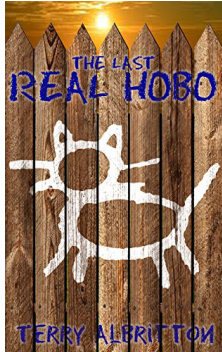
# Bits & Pieces

## May Board Meeting

Your Executive Board will be meeting in May on Zoom, which is a conference call via video. We can see each other on the screen while we conduct our meeting.

## New Book From Member

Another member, Terry Albritton, has just published her long awaited book. It is a fiction called "The Last Real Hobo," and you can buy it in paperback or for Kindle from Amazon. Her novel is a historical fiction and loosely related on Galt history. Terry says that if you have been in Galt for a long time, you might recognize some things. It was so nice to receive Terry's email. She now lives in San Diego, but I am sure she would love to hear from her friends at the GAHS. Her email is: ttaylor1944@gmail.com. She told me how she misses being involved with the GAHS. She was always right there volunteering when we needed her.



## Big Day of Giving

You will see a complete article with website for donating to the GAHS within this newsletter. Must be done by May 7th.

## Rae Open House Cancelled

We will keep the Rae Museum closed in

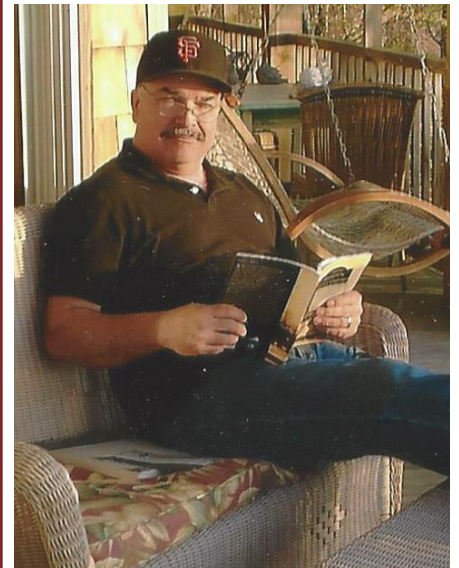
May and until we are told it is safe for visitors.

## Fundraising Update

So far we have had to cancel two fundraisers: Kite Day and the Ladies Tea. We are hopeful that our annual Car Show August 29th, the Antique and Collectible Faire also August 29th at the MAC, and Sip & Snack at the MAC on September 26th will go as planned. We have car show participants sending in their entrance fees already and we have wineries signed up. Our biggest fear is that because businesses have been hurt during the COVID-19, some may not participate or donate. If you shop somewhere that is a restaurant or store and you know someone in charge, please spread the word about Sip N Snack. It will take all of us to work together on this.

## Thanks to the Sponsors

Many of you have told me how you really enjoy reading our newsletter with the stories and pictures. First, without Express Type and Graphic, i.e., Dan and Toni Gerling, it would not be possible. However, each month you see the different businesses who advertise. They are the ones, through their advertisements, who pay for the newsletter. So whenever you can, please support them and give them your business. We appreciate them all, including our members to contribute stories each month for the newsletter.



## Contact the Historian

☞ If you need or have Galt area historic information (includes Herald, Thornton, Liberty, Hicksville, Clay Station, Arno, Elliott, Colony, and Arno).

☞ If you have historic Galt area or family photos for us to scan and return.

☞ If you have area historical artifacts to display at the Rae House Museum.

Dan Tarnasky  
Historian/Archivist  
(916) 952-2368  
blckrssn@hotmail.com

## News from McFarland Ranch

We are maintaining a safe volunteer environment. On a normal volunteer day there are three to four of us working. We maintain safe working distance as much as possible, we have disinfectants and use when applicable.

We have several projects in progress: rebuilding picnic benches for the Pioneer Days area, rebuilding the work tables for the Pioneer Days area, and rebuilding the picket fence around the main house. We have completed repairs on a damaged fence. We have a lot of material to cut to proper proportions and a lot

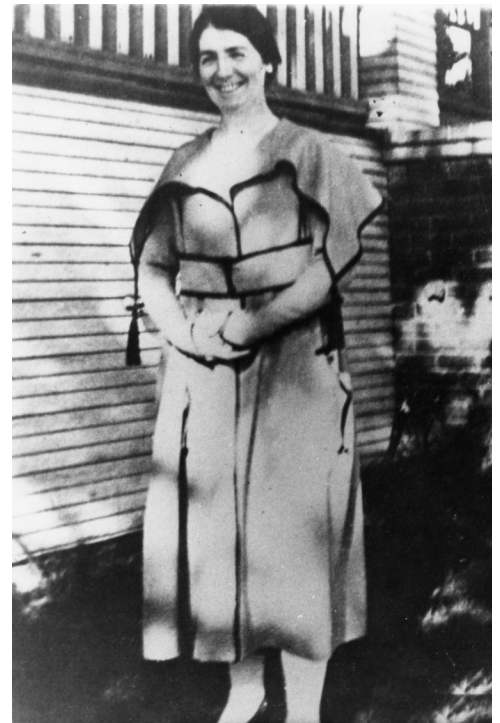
of painting to complete. We installed 24 termite bait stations around infected areas to eradicate them. We have logged over four hundred hours of volunteer time so far this year, many thanks to Earl Frey, Roger Watson, Kirk Swim, Robert Scott, Dan Corbett, Ron Jacobson and Francis Jacobson.



# Can you help us identify these Galt area citizens?

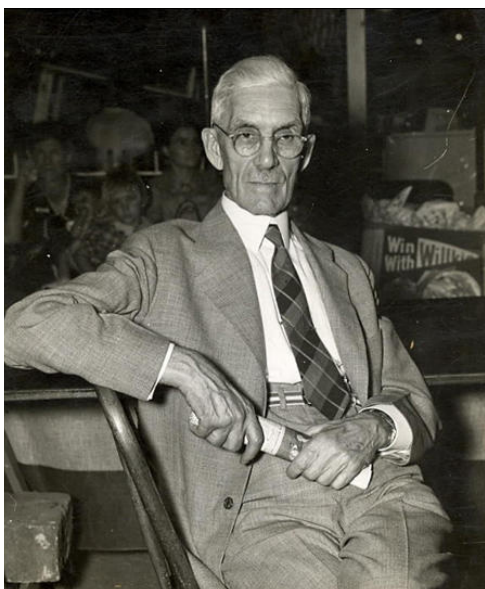
We have several photos that are unidentified.  
If you know who one of these people are, contact:

**Dan Tarnasky - GAHS Historian**  
**Email: [blckrssn@hotmail.com](mailto:blckrssn@hotmail.com)**  
**(916) 952-2368**





# Townsend Club



- » You had to be free from habitual criminality.
- » You had to spend the money within 30 days (this would help stimulate the economy).

The last requirement was the "revolving" part. There were a couple of interesting side notes to the Plan. It would be illegal to save even a penny. Even millionaires could participate and those people that had never worked a day in their life were eligible. Sounds like a good plan, right?

There were some flaws in the Plan. The 2% tax was not a sales tax, it was a tax on financial transactions (sales, services, bank transactions, etc.). The Plan would produce \$24 billion monthly or \$29 billion annually. The total income of the workforce at the time was \$46 billion a year. That would shift 2/3 of the wealth in the US economy from workers to the retired. The average monthly wage in the US was \$100 per month. Retirees would get double the amount. For it to work, Townsend believed that the money being spent by retirees was not already being spent in the economy. Moving \$200 in spending from a worker to a retiree would have no effect on economic activity. It would only have an impact if the worker was not himself/herself spending that money on their current consumption. The best economists at the time had a hard time figuring out Townsend's Plan.

Francis Townsend took his proposal to Congress but failed miserably. President Roosevelt called the Plan irresponsible and unworkable, but he acknowledged that it did motivate Congress to produce the Social Security Act in 1935. Taking ideas from Townsend's Plan, the Government taxes income at 2%, and the retirement age is 62. Once retired, the beneficiary receives a monthly salary. Social Security began paying benefits in 1940 (maximum payment was \$41.20 a month). Townsend Clubs were disappointed in the results. Social Security was not immediate, you had to work for a few years to earn any payments, and those were small in the beginning. It was a far cry from a free \$200 a month.

Even after the passage of Social Security, Townsend Clubs continued to exist. They

were not receiving a monthly pension but continued to be activists for raising Social Security benefits. As time went by, more and more of the clubs folded. The prosperity of the post-World War II years and improvements in private, state, and federal pension benefits caused members to forget about the Townsend Clubs.

The Galt Townsend Club was one of the first clubs in the organization (the organization itself started in California), and it has the designation of number 1. Articles in the Galt Herald in 1935 notify members of the next meeting and local conventions. It is not known how many members were in the club when it was founded, but a roster from 1950 has about 50 local citizens, including Judge Roy Foote and Dr. Frederick Harms. The last of the correspondence has the year 1960. We are not sure if that was the last year. Included in the collection of Townsend Club papers are a Townsend Plan newspaper, a newsletter (the Townsend Flash), minutes of the meetings from 1947 to 1952, and the Townsend Club manual. The papers come from the estate of Laura McConaughy, who was a charter member and president of the Galt Townsend Club #1 in 1959. Debbie Longmire, a relative of McConaughy, donated the papers to the Historical Society. Thanks Debbie!

Historian

We have been blessed with many donations to our archives in the form of papers from past local organizations. While going through boxes of materials from the late Genie Olson, documents were discovered that belonged to the Townsend Club. Researching the Galt Herald, I had run across articles referring to the Townsend Club regarding upcoming meetings, but I did not have time to read them. Perusing through their collection shed some light on the organization.

As most people know, the Great Depression was a hardship for a large segment of our population, especially the retirees. In 1933, a retired physician named Francis Townsend noticed two elderly ladies searching through trash cans looking for food. It got him thinking about their plight and wondering why there was not a pension or retirement plan for all people over 60 years old. Townsend wrote a "Letter to the Editor" in the Long Beach newspaper where he lived. In his letter, he proposed a revolving old-age pension plan that would take care of retirement age citizens. News of Townsend's letter spread across the United States. His proposal created a groundswell of support in the form of 7,000 Townsend clubs across America. One of those was in Galt.

The proposal stated that every person over 60 would be paid \$200 per month, which would be supported by a national sales tax of 2%. There were just three requirements to participate:

- » You had to be retired

**TOWNSEND PLAN NATIONAL COURIER**  
 Vol. 3 - No. 6  
 SATURDAY AUGUST 13, 1936  
 WASHINGTON, D. C.  
 20c Per Copy

**Special Session of Congress Is Target of Townsend 'Crash' Drive**

**Whirlwind Campaign Launched by Organization on National Level And in Grass Roots of America**

**Let's Go!**

**Quickie**

**Will YOU Answer Call to Crash Program Duty?**

**Slaves for Hire: Apply Federal and State Governments**  
 See Page 8



P.O. Box 782  
Galt, California 95632

Non Profit PRST  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 17  
Galt, CA 95632



## BEN SALAS FUNERAL HOME

FD 1257

~ SINCE 1955 ~

**"OUR FAMILY SERVING YOURS"**

TRADITIONAL &  
PERSONALIZED FUNERALS

MEMORIAL &  
CREMATION SERVICES

CUSTOMIZED  
PRE-ARRANGEMENTS

HEADSTONES &  
CREMATION ACCESSORIES

149 4TH STREET  
GALT, CA 95632

**209-745-1191**

**JONNIE &  
HERMAN  
GROSSHANS**  
OWNERS  
#FD1317



**GALT**  
**SMOG**  
& REGISTRATION

515 N. Lincoln Way  
Galt, CA 95632

**209-745-5001**  
Se Habla Español

- Locally Owned & Operated
- Two smog machines for faster service
- We perform most smog tests
  - Biennial Smog
  - Diesel
  - Change of ownership
  - Out of state
- Vehicle Renewal/Registration  
Issue Plates and Stickers
- Title Transfer / Change of Ownership



**ANN ULLRICH**  
REALTOR®

DRE Lic. # 01706199

**PARKER REALTY**  
UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL

- 📞 209.481.5489
- ✉ Ann@ParkerRealtyGalt.com
- 🌐 www.ParkerRealtyGalt.com
- 🏠 545 Industrial Drive #105  
Galt, California 95632



# KEN GROSS

## WATER WELLS & PUMPS

CONT. LIC. NO. 530672

**(209) 745-2048**

Lodi (209) 368-0267 • Elk Grove (916) 682-2108

Fax (209) 745-8584