

## FEATURE STORY

### Volunteers complete community service projects

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By Bryan M. Gold - Staff Writer

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More than an estimated 300 volunteers on April 28 completed a lengthy list of community service projects that included landscaping, painting, adding sand to playgrounds, and replacing a few roofs.



Hundreds of volunteers complete the landscaping down Carillion Way on the east side of Galt on Saturday, April 28.

Congregations from churches throughout Galt came together to participate in a "Season of Service" in advance of the Sacramento festival put on by the Luis Palau organization at Cal Expo in June.

Known as Love Galt and following the "Love" theme of service held in cities including Modesto, Ceres and Escalon, the waves of volunteers worked in conjunction with the annual Mormon Helping Hands volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. That church had already scheduled Helping Hands for April 28, so it made sense for all of the volunteers to work together.

Galt City Manager Jason Behrmann said city budget and staff cuts prevented staff from completing maintenance and park improvement projects that ranged in skill from adding sand to playgrounds at a handful of parks to replacing the roof over the concession stand at the sports complex.

Other projects included replacing the siding on park restrooms at several parks, renovating the landscaping near City Hall and the Galt Market, and landscaping the median on Carillion Way.

"I'm amazed at the amount of work that was done," said Adin Selby, who was recently named as the city's facilities maintenance manager. "I was surprised at the amount and the quality of the work."

Selby said there were lane closures in both directions on Carillion Way, where an estimated 200 volunteers planted about 4,000 plants. He added that, most importantly, nobody was hurt on any of the projects.

Volunteers also installed new swings at Galt Community Park and power washed and painted the shade structure at Greer Park,

"The volunteers were able to complete many of these important projects that would have otherwise been impossible for the city to complete on its own," Behrmann said after the event. "It was great to see members of the faith-based community working side by side with our staff to accomplish so much for the benefit of the entire community. It makes me very proud to be part of this community."

Family Life Christian Church Pastor Rick Keiser II said people working together to serve their city and neighbors was exactly what he and other Love Galt organizers hoped would happen.

"The people who came out were such an incredible help," Keiser said. "But, in addition to all of the work that got done, I think everyone had a great time. It was fun to work side by side with people we have never met before."

Keiser said a similar event is scheduled for Sept. 29. He added that he did not have the projects lined up just yet but was open to receiving ideas. Keiser said some projects that are not as labor intensive would be on the list.

After the volunteers completed their tasks, the participants gathered at Galt Community Park for a barbecue.

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