

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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**JANUARY 13, 2014**

For additional information on any of the items in this report, please see Contact List at the end of this report.

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### **BENICIA POLICE HIRE NEW PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCHER:**



The Benicia Police Department is pleased to announce the hiring of Public Safety Dispatcher Stephanie Martin. Stephanie has lived in Benicia most of her life and attended both the Benicia Middle School and Benicia High School. She worked at Raley's from 1991 to 1999. She left Raley's to work for the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office. During her time at the Sheriff's Office, she has served as a Sheriff's Ranger, Dispatcher and Sheriff's Aide. Her husband Chris also works for the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office. Stephanie

has two children, Tommy 13 and Ashley 11, who both attend Benicia Middle School. Stephanie is excited to begin her new career at Benicia PD working in her hometown. – *Police Department*



**HIRING NEWS (CONTINUED):** The Community Development Department is pleased to announce the hiring of Suzanne Thorsen, Associate Planner. This position has been vacant for over a year, and the duties have been performed by contract staff. Suzanne comes to us from Marin County and is a great addition to our team.

The City Manager's Office is pleased to announce the hiring of Kate Gibbs as Deputy City Clerk. This position has been vacant since the retirement on longtime Deputy City Clerk Jayne York. Kate comes to us from the State of California Office of Attorney General and is a welcome addition to the office. We welcome Stephanie, Suzanne and Kate to our City of Benicia family. – *City Manager's Office*

**HEATING APPLIANCE SAFETY:** As we continue through the winter months, it is likely that you will have opportunities to use the heating appliances in your home. Although these appliances provide us with the warmth necessary to be comfortable during the cold weather, they also have the potential to produce deadly Carbon Monoxide.



The Fire Department has, once again, responded to an incident involving the presence of high levels of Carbon Monoxide in a residence. The occupants were alerted by a Carbon Monoxide detector, although they originally discounted the activation of the alarm. We would like to encourage everyone to make sure that they have a working Carbon Monoxide detector in their home. The detector alarms are intended to provide an early warning to the presence of Carbon Monoxide. Residents should call 911 immediately anytime the alarm activates. When our crews arrive on the scene, they can use testing devices to more accurately assess the presence of Carbon Monoxide. They will also request assistance from PG&E.

In addition to the previous recommendations, the Benicia Fire Department also encouraging everyone to have their heating appliances regularly inspected and maintained. This will assist in ensuring that your appliances are operating and venting properly. PG&E has some great resources on their website regarding [Carbon Monoxide](#) that you can refer to for further information. You can contact [PG&E](#) or other qualified professionals to request an inspection of your heating appliances. – *Fire Department*



**WHAT IS THE “TRIVIA BEE”?** The Trivia Bee is one of the best-loved affairs that takes place each year, and is the signature fundraising event of the Benicia Public Library’s Adult Literacy & ESL Program. The much-loved tradition, which began in 1992, is a trivia competition similar to the game show “Jeopardy”. The difference is that it is a team instead of individual competition where teams must answer the trivia questions correctly. Teams from local businesses and community groups vie for the honor of being Benicia's "Top Trivia Toads." There are three spirited rounds of trivia questions in a variety of categories such as entertainment and culture, sports, history and geography, cooking, literature, science and technology, and wild card. The annual winning team receives a trophy plaque with the past winners’ team names inscribed. The team is awarded the trophy for the year, and must return it to the Literacy program in time for the next Trivia Bee, where it passes on to the next winners.

Over the years, the artwork created for the event presented a toad as the mascot. The toad continues to be part of the artwork design, and takes on the look of each theme.

The Trivia Bee continues to be one of the key fundraising events in Benicia drawing an enthusiastic sellout audience of nearly 300 to an evening including dinner, music, a no-host bar, a raffle, and the much anticipated trivia competition itself! Audience members dress to suit the theme and are not shy about cheering their favorite teams on.

Folks come from as far away as Las Vegas, Ohio and New Orleans to join in the fun! In keeping with the annual theme, participants and guests dress accordingly – and awards are given for the best costumes of the evening. Needless to say, there are costumes galore and lots of laughs! Audience participation is part of the event: while a guest may not know anyone when they arrive and sit at their table, once the Bee begins, teamwork and the desire to get all the answers instantly builds community!

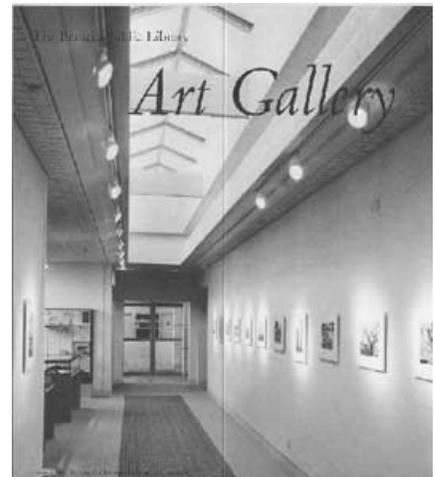
This year’s Trivia Bee is on **Saturday, February 22** at the Clocktower. Tickets are \$25 per person and are available at the [Benicia Public Library](#). - Library

**DECEMBER PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSE:** The City of Benicia experienced a major sewer force main line break in December. This incident spanned approximately 13 hours and involved staff from the maintenance yard, the wastewater treatment plant, and the laboratory.



The City recognizes the following employees for their hard work and dedication: Nick Wilson, Drake Valentine, Jeremiah Rice, Jeff Trezza, Danilo Stanovich, Chris Sorrentino, Manuel Cano, Robert Lacy, Nate Rankin, Devin Stanovich, Jeff Henning, Mike Ferrara, Mike Estrada, Alan Hodges, Jeff Gregory, Greg Axline, Tom Svensson, Nicole VanAken, Erika Sheetenhelm, and Brad Harms. In addition, Jim York and Jon Lane managed the treatment plant and accepted the waste that had to be pumped out of the lift station, shipped by truck, and treated at the plant. Almost half of the entire Public Works Department responded to this issue. – *Public Works*

**ART GALLERY COMMITTEE MEMBER NEEDED:** The Art Gallery Advisory Committee for the Marilyn Citron O'Rourke Gallery at the Benicia Public Library is currently accepting applications from people interested in serving on the committee. The deadline for applications has been extended to **January 31, 2014** at 5:00PM.



Meetings are held at 7:00PM on the third Monday of each month, typically excluding June, July, August and December. The committee votes on exhibit submissions in the fall and each committee member serves as a liaison for 1-2 exhibits annually. Applications are available [online here](#). - *Library*

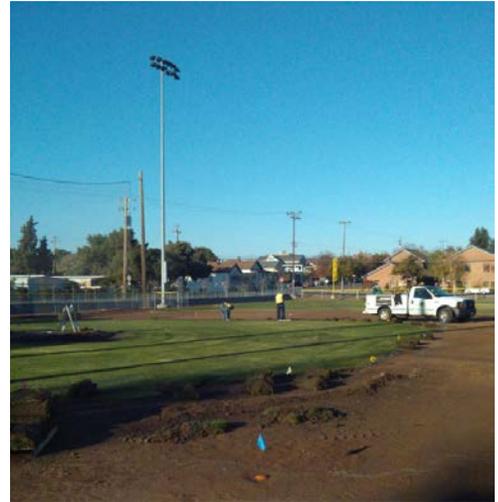


**YOUTH BASKETBALL CLINIC:** The Benicia Youth Basketball League kicked off the 2013 - 2014 season with a clinic on Saturday, December 14. The Benicia High School Girls Basketball team, coached by Randy Saitz, helped run the clinic this year. They did an amazing job teaching the kids the fundamental skills while maintaining a fun environment. The league grew again this year and is at a record number of 547 kids. Games started Saturday, January 11. – *Parks & Community Services*





**F**IELD PREP FOR SPORTS: The Parks & Community Services Department Parks staff is in the process of completing ball field preparation. Our sports fields are always a source of pride for the community and a safe place for our children to play. By taking this time to prepare the fields, players will have a safe



and beautiful place to enjoy their sports games. Opening Day for Benicia Little League is **Saturday, March 8.** – *Parks & Community Services*



**HOLIDAY DINNER DONATIONS:** On Christmas Eve, the Benicia Fire Department joined with the local Rotary Club to deliver holiday meals to families in need. Ten meals were purchased from Raley's through Rotary Club of Benicia donations and were delivered by the Benicia Firefighters to families in our community. – *Fire Department*

**N**EW BENICIA BUSINESSES: The following are newly licensed businesses or businesses in new locations. Please stop by and make them feel welcome:

- Benicia Spa and Tan (new owner only) — 862 Southamton Road, new owner: Van Nguyen
- Unique Jewelry (new owner only) — 822 Southamton Road, new owner: John Nguyen
- Water One — 5410 Gateway Plaza Drive, owner: Hans Erik Fuchs
- What's on First — 433 First Street, owner: John Montoya
- James L. Bianchi, Attorney at Law — 831 East 2nd street, Suite 203, owner: James L. Bianchi
- Benicia Biker Barre, LLC dba PowerSpyn — 991 Lincoln Street, owner: Jasmine Powers
- Steven M. Green, CPA — 831 East Second Street, Ste 201A, owner: Steven Green

- *Economic Development*





**POEM HOMES:** Free poetry is available around town in Poem Homes that have recently been updated with new content and a new cover. Find a Poem Home near you at the following locations:

- Benicia Public Library
- Community Action Council (480 Military East)
- Benicia Marina (near the Yacht Club)
- Community Garden (First and D Street)
- Renee Jordan Realty (1038 First Street)
- Benicia High School (Teresa Finn’s room), and
- Southampton Community Park (Chelsea Hills at Panorama)

Thanks to Lois Requist, Benicia Poet Laureate, and all the First Tuesday poets who contributed. – *Library*

**TINY TOTS PRE-SCHOOL:** December was a fun and busy month for our Preschoolers as they prepared for the holidays. Santa paid all of the Tiny Tots classes a surprise visit before their Holiday Party. The children were so excited to see him! Each child was able to sit on his lap, tell him what they wanted for Christmas and, of course, take a picture with him, too. Each class also did a small Christmas performance for their parents and grandparents to enjoy. After singing Jingle Bells & Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, parents and grandparents enjoyed cookies and refreshments with the children and their teachers. – *Parks & Community Services*



**SENIORS MAKE DONATION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN:** The Senior Craft Class made a generous donation of purchased and handmade items for local Foster Care children. The class, led by instructor Betty Qually, made blankets with matching pillows and sets of baby hats, booties and blankets. In addition they used proceeds from their recent craft fair to purchase and donate backpacks and twenty \$25 gift cards for Target and Kohl’s. Thanks go to the amazing women of the Senior Craft Class for making some children very happy this holiday season. – *Parks & Community Services*



**E**VENTS AND PROGRAMS FOR KIDS: The Children's events and programs offered by the Benicia Public Library are open to everyone and are free of charge. Most do not require registration. Please join us!

**Ongoing events and programs:**

- **Baby Storytime** for 6 to 18 month-olds is held every week on Wednesdays at 1:00PM. No registration is required. Expect 10 to 15 minutes of fast-paced storytime fun, including stories, rhymes, bouncing songs, tickles, and feltboards. Call Allison at 707.746.4741 for more information.
- **Toddler Storytime** for 2 and 3 year-olds is every Wednesday at 10:30AM. No registration is required. Toddlers' attention spans are short, so expect 20-25 minutes of simple books, songs, easy fingerplays, and feltboard nursery rhymes. Adults and their toddlers actively participate in this storytime together, so sit close together and help the child follow along. Books suitable for toddlers are available for checkout after the storytime. Come a few minutes early, so the toddler can get a nametag and meet the Librarian.
- **Preschool Storytime** for 4 and 5 year-olds is every Tuesday at 10:30AM. No registration is required. Preschoolers' attention spans are longer, so expect 25-30 minutes of books with more complex plots, songs, fingerplays, and longer feltboards. We do a craft or activity after the Librarian finishes reading books. Books suitable for preschoolers are available for checkout after the storytime. Come a few minutes early, so the preschooler can get a name tag and meet the Librarian.
- **Board Game Evenings** are for the whole family! Come to the Library's Dona Benicia Room between 6:00 - 8:30PM on Fridays (February 14, March 7, April 4). We provide games, so just come along and play!
- **The After-School Zone** happens Monday - Thursday, when school is in session, from 3:15 to 5:00PM. The After-School Zone is a free place for kids age 8 - 19 to drop in. It's a place to study, play videogames, have a snack, and visit with friends.

**Baby  
Storytime**



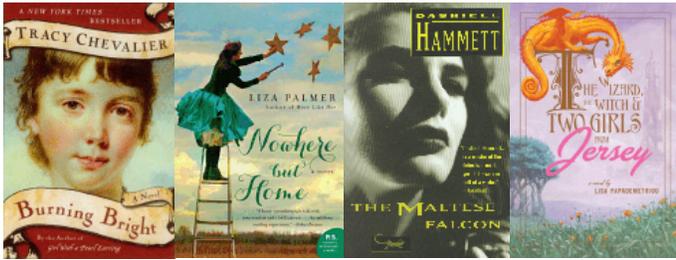
- Library

**U**PGRADE ON BOOK CLUBS: Benicia Public Library has many [book clubs](#). Here's info on the clubs and what they are reading:

Adult Book Clubs-

- **Noon Mystery Book Club** meets the first Wednesday of the month at noon. They are reading *Burning Bright* by Tracy Chevalier
- **Food for Thought Book Club** meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:00PM. They are reading *Nowhere but Home* by Liza Palmer
- **Mystery Book Club** meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00PM. They are reading *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett
- **Evening Book Club** meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM. They are also reading *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett

- **Kids Books for Adults Book Club** meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. They are reading *The Wizard, the Witch & Two Girls from Jersey* by Lisa Papademetriou



If you're interested one of these book clubs, contact the [Benicia Public Library](#) or sign up for their [newsletter](#). You can [borrow a set of books](#) for your book club's use and check them out for up to 60 days. Contact [Helaine Bowles](#) at 707.746.4358. – *Library*

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

The City Manager's Report from City of Benicia City Manager Brad Kilger is published semi-monthly. For additional information on any of the items in this report, please contact one of the following departments:

[City Manager/Human Resources/Economic Development/I.T.:](#) 707.746.4200

[City Attorney:](#) 707.746.4216

[Community Development:](#) 707.746.4280

[Finance Department:](#) 707.746.4225

[Fire Department:](#) 707.746.4275

[Library:](#) 707.746.4343

[Parks & Community Services:](#) 707.746.4285

[Police Department:](#) 707.746.4265

[Public Works:](#) 707.746.4240