

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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**FEBRUARY 6, 2012**

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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**BUSINESS NEWS:** Looking for dancewear? Newly opened Benicia Dancewear carries dancewear essentials like leotards, tights, ballet slippers, jazz and tap shoes, and dance related accessories and gifts. Located at 408 Military East in the Sun Shine Plaza shopping center, [Benicia Dancewear](#) is open Monday-Friday, Noon-7:00 pm and Saturdays, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. You can reach them at 707.747.5022. – *Economic Development*

**JAMES LEMOS AQUATICS CENTER:** The re-plastering of the dive pool is complete. The work consisted of removing and replacing plaster, installation of a new gutter tile and depth markers, replacement of drain inlets and entrapment inlets, and Health Department plans and permits. The 50-meter pool opened on Wednesday, February 1 for the Benicia High School swim team

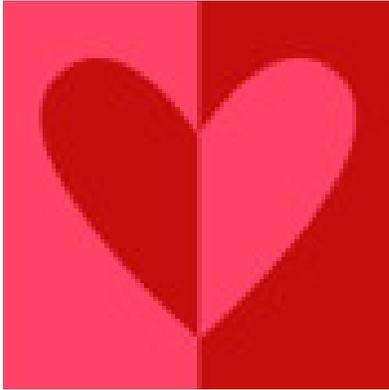


and lap swim. - *Parks & Community Services*

**BOOKS TO MOVIES BOOK CLUB:** Did you ever go to a movie that you'd read the book for and wish you had some people to discuss it with? Or watch a movie and then read the book and want friends to share with the differences in the story, plot, or techniques that were used? The Library's [Books to Movies Book Club](#) reads the book, and then watches the movie in the Library the following month, followed by a discussion. Books are handed out at the front desk for your reading pleasure. This month, the book and movie *Chocolat* (by Joanne Harris) will be discussed – come to the Library for this event on February 8 at 6:30 pm. - *Library*



**LOVE POETRY CONTEST AWARDS CELEBRATION:** Since 2004, poets from Benicia and surrounding communities have been honoring the love affair of Early California's [Concepción Argüello and Russia's Nikolai Rezanov](#).



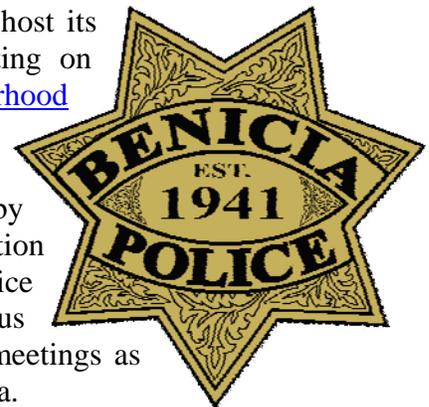
By the deadline, two hundred eighteen original, unpublished love poems have been submitted by 92 poets to be judged by a California Community Poet Laureate not from our local area. Some of the submitted love poems are featured at [Benicia Patch](#).

The Benicia Public Library and the [Benicia Historical Museum](#) are co-sponsoring an awards celebration featuring the winning love poems and an Ope Mic session to allow participants to share love poems. Join the celebration on Sunday, February 12 from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Historical Museum. - *Library*

**VALENTINE'S DAY PLANNING:** Do you realize Valentine's Day is a week from tomorrow? Stumped for the perfect gift to give on February 14? Benicia has an abundance of spas offering a variety of services perfect for that special someone in your life. Or maybe instead of a gift, you're looking for something to do together? Check out the spas listing on [VisitBenicia.org](#), then contact a spa to assist you in planning the perfect Valentine's Day.

- *Economic Development*

**COFFEE WITH THE COPS:** Benicia Police Department will host its third "Coffee with the Cops" neighborhood/business meeting on Thursday, February 9 at 4:00 pm at [Mike & Gayle's Neighborhood Café](#) in the Southampton Shopping Center.



"Coffee with the Cops" is a pilot program implemented by Chief Andrew Bidou in an effort to enhance communication between community members, business owners and the Police Department. The informal meetings are held in various locations, at various times throughout the city to make the meetings as convenient as possible to businesses and the citizens of Benicia.

- *Police Department*

**BENICIA COMMUNITY PARK:** In an effort to improve the condition of the turf for the 2012 softball and soccer season the Parks and Community Services staff is renovating field #1 and field #2 at Community Park. The renovation consists of aerating, over seeding, top dressing, and fertilizing the fields. The fields should be ready for play when teams start practicing in late February. - *Parks & Community Services*



**IPAD2S IN FIRE ENGINES:** The Benicia Fire Department has begun using Ipad2s in all first run fire apparatus. The new Ipad2s will allow access to the new Fire House® Records Management System (RMS) recently acquired by the Department. The Fire House® RMS contains important information regarding occupancies within our jurisdiction. This information may include building construction type, special hazards, locations of fire protection systems, and emergency contact information. Another added feature of the new (RMS) is the direct Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) integration. There are several additional applications that will be applied overtime to the Ipad2 platform, which will make them an invaluable tool for years to come. – *Fire Department*

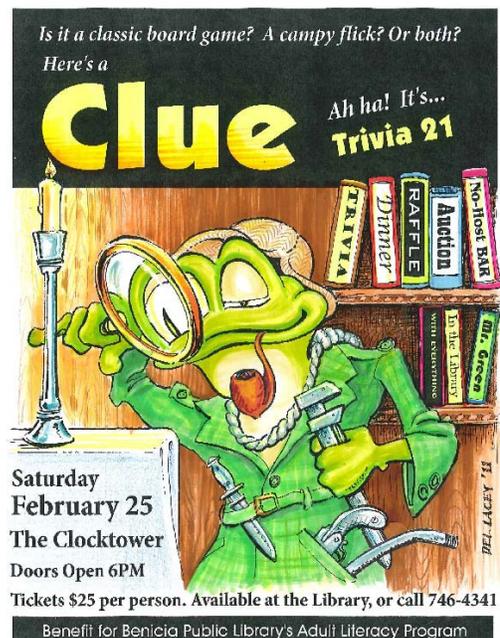


**TRIVIA BEE TICKETS ON SALE:** Join **Mr. Green**, **Mrs. Peacock**, **Professor Plum**, Mrs. White, and **Colonel Mustard** when Trivia Bee plays a game of **CLUE**. In its 21<sup>st</sup> year, **Trivia Bee** is a fundraiser for the Library's Adult Literacy and English as a Second Language Program.\* Teams will compete in costume in what has been called "the mother of all trivia games" for the coveted frog trophy.

Form a team of three or cheer one on and enjoy a delicious dinner, cocktails, and great raffle and auctions prizes:

The Clocktower  
 Saturday, February 25  
 Doors open at 6:00 pm

Tickets are \$25 and are available at the Library Circulation Desk or call 707.746.4341. – *Library*



**LIBRARY CLOSURE IN FEBRUARY:** The Benicia Public Library will be closed from February 17–20, as the Library's circulation and computer systems will be shut down for migration to a new Integrated Library System (ILS). All items that would have been due between those dates will be due after February 20, so please do not return items to the library over the weekend. Book donations, Trivia Bee ticket sales, and all other Library functions will resume at 10:00 am on February 21. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience to Library users and thank patrons for having patience during this time of transition. – *Library*

\* One of many programs suffering from drastic State funding cuts, more than 50% of the program's funding was paid by the State.

**COMINGS AND GOINGS FROM HUMAN RESOURCES:**

**Comings** - Watch this report for upcoming job openings with the City of Benicia or check on the [City's website](#).

**Goings** - Have you noticed a few familiar faces are missing around City Hall? Here is a list of recent retirees and their years of service with the City of Benicia:



**Dave Core**, Public Works Engineering Inspector, 33 years

**Steve Cortland**, Firefighter/Engineer, 28 years

**Chris Tomasik**, Assistant Director & Utility Manager Public Works, 20 years

**Mike Alvarez**, Director Parks & Community Services, 32 years

**Bette Hornstein**, Administrative Secretary Fire Department, 24 years

**Keith Shirrell**, Field Utilities Street Journeyman Public Works, 16 years

**Louise Collins**, Administrative Secretary Parks & Community Services, 27 years

**Rob Sousa**, Finance Director, 8 years

**Harvey Higgs**, Building Official Public Works & Community Development, 23 years

The example of dedication to their jobs and the citizens of Benicia is the legacy left by these fine employees, and continues to be an example for all employees of the City of Benicia. – *Human Resources*

**CALIFORNIA FIRE CHIEFS PLANNING WORKSHOP:** Benicia Fire Chief Steve Vucurevich, current President of the California Fire Chiefs Operations Section, met with the full board of

the California Fire Chiefs Association for their Annual Planning Workshop on January 17-18 to prepare and plan for the upcoming year. California Fire Chiefs Association President Demetrious Shaffer led the group in an exercise to cast a new vision, mission, and values. The collaborative process that also involved partner agencies such as State Fire Marshals Office, State Fire Training, California Emergency Management Association, and others, led to the new guiding statements:



**Vision:** Be the Voice of the California Fire Service.

**Mission:** To strengthen and advocate for the California Fire Service through leadership, unity, and collaboration.

**Values:** Integrity-Professionalism-Credibility-Innovation-Competency

- *Fire Department*

**LIBRARY MEASURE L SALES TAX RENEWAL:** Originally passed in 1998 as Measure B, Measure L will continue the existing transactions and use tax for library operations at a rate of one-eighth of one percent (0.125%). The sales tax is used for funding public library programs, operations and acquisitions and provides increased hours of operation, more materials, and more programs for Benicia citizens. Measure L will be brought to the voters for consideration on the June 5, 2012 ballot. – *Library*

**TAX FORMS AND INFORMATION:** Current basic [income tax forms](#) are available at the Benicia Public Library. Forms from past years are kept in binders in the reference section of the Library and can be photocopied for your use. The filing deadline this year is Monday, April 16. - *Library*

**BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FEASIBILITY:** Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) are a funding tool for business owners to self-assess themselves to fund improvements in their business district. As a service to the business community, the City of Benicia, Economic Development Division commissioned Civitas Advisors to perform a BID feasibility study. This study is designed to give business owners valuable information on ways/methods to improve their economic standing. This BID feasibility study is nearing conclusion. Soon it will be time for business owners to decide if forming a BID is something they wish to pursue. Over the last six months Civitas Advisors has surveyed property and business owners, reviewed financial data, and evaluated the benefits/improvements desired by property and business owners.

The information gathered by Civitas Advisors has resulted, due to either legal requirements or degree of interest by owners, in the following conclusions:

1. For Benicia a Downtown BID is most feasible
2. A business-based BID is preferred to a property-based district
3. If a BID is formed it should be modest in its revenue goal
4. The two most desired themes for a benefit/improvement are street improvements and/or marketing efforts.

– *Economic Development*

**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING:** Benicia Fire Marshal Ray Iverson attended a Report on Proposals (ROP) meeting in January in San Antonio. He is currently a principal voting member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 25 Technical Committee on Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Systems. The committee convened to discuss and vote on 335 proposed changes to the NFPA 25 Standard. – *Fire Department*



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CONTACT INFORMATION

The City Manager's Report from City of Benicia City Manager Brad Kilger is published before each City Council meeting on the first and third Tuesday of the month. 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

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 & Community Development: 707.746.4240 or 746.4280