

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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MARCH 4, 2013

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 CHAPLAINS RECEIVE CHIEFS MEDAL:** On February 27, Benicia Police Chief Andrew Bidou awarded Police Chaplains Dan Wolke and Jerry Pollard the Benicia Police Department's Chiefs Medal. The Chiefs Medal is awarded for outstanding performance which is worthy of special recognition.



In January, Police and Fire employees were dispatched to a report of an infant that had drowned in a swimming pool. At the time of this incident, the infant's parents, siblings, and family friends were present. Chaplain Jerry Pollard responded to the residence to stay with and assist the young siblings and family friends. Chaplain Dan Wolke responded to the hospital to be with the understandably distraught parents. Throughout this tragic incident, Chaplains Wolke and Pollard maintained professionalism and dedication to their duties as Police Chaplains. Their involvement allowed Police personnel the ability to complete their investigation with minimal distractions. Both Chaplains later facilitated a well-planned and organized debriefing of the incident for all of the emergency personnel involved.

The Chaplain Program was implemented in 2001 and has become an invaluable tool for the agency. Chaplains are often called to major incidents and are tasked with providing comfort and guidance to family members during their most difficult times. This particular tragedy is a strong reminder of the importance of the Chaplain Program and the successful partnership it shares with all first responders. – *Police Department*



**FADO CONCERT AT THE LIBRARY:** In a nod to Benicia's strong Portuguese heritage, [Ramana Vieira](#), considered to be a rising star in the Fado\* music tradition, will perform with her Ensemble in the Dona Benicia Room on Sunday, **March 10**, at 3:00 PM. Admission is free. Don't miss out on the opportunity to hear this Grammy winner performing this special Portuguese music. - *Library*

\*According to the Portuguese, Fado is a melancholy and often-mournful music similar to the American blues as it tells stories of heartache and disappointment.

**BERT GRADUATION:** The Benicia Emergency Response Team (BERT) is proud to announce the recent graduation of 15 new trained BERT volunteers. BERT recognizes that during a large emergency or disaster, professional emergency services and responders are overloaded and may be unable to immediately respond to all locations needed.

The idea behind the BERT program is to educate Benicia residents about disaster preparedness, and to teach them valuable skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.



BERT training consists of six three-hour classes and a skills day. Volunteers who complete the course are then able following a major disaster such as an earthquake to assist others in their neighborhoods or workplaces until first responders can arrive on scene.



The premise behind BERT is “people helping people.” Interim Fire Chief Nicolas Thomas says that as a first responder, he wants to personally thank the Benicia residents who have chosen to become involved with the BERT program. “Their contributions to our community are invaluable,” Thomas says. Chief Thomas would also like to acknowledge the BERT members that assisted in the training and graduation of class number 26 including Dennis Lowry, BERT Academy Coordinator, and Art Mayoff, BERT Photographer. He would also like to thank Benicia Volunteer Firefighters Dustin Anderson and Nehemiah O’Neal, and Station 11 fire personnel including Interim Captain Jed Matcham, James Ensley, Tony Horner, Carl Littorno, Ricardo Netro and Matt Murphy.

BERT training courses are offered at least twice each year. To learn more about BERT and future training classes, see the BERT website at [www.beniciabert.com](http://www.beniciabert.com). – *Fire Department*



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

- Pinball Pirate - 3195 Park Road #D - Owner: Christopher Kuntz
- Dignified Living Home Care, DLHC - 1350 Hayes Street #A9 - Owner: Jessica Petker
- Sulzer Turbo Services Houston Inc - 2990 Bay Vista Court #A - Officers: Darayus Pardivala & Scott Fahey
- Marigenna Guieb Reyes - 949 Grant Street #I - Owner: Marigenna Reyes

- *Economic Development*



**UPDATE FROM PUBLIC WORKS:** Take a look at what the Public Works Department was working on in January. See if they were in your neighborhood.

**Maintenance – Sewer:**

- Customer Service Calls- El Paseo, 400 East K Street, 400 Greenbrier Court, 900 West K Street, 100 West N Street, 200 Military East, 800 West J Street.
- Back Up Response- Oak Road, 100 West N Street, 700 West 2nd, East 6th @ G Streets.
- Televised Inspections- Waste Water Plant, 400 East K Street, 900 West K Street, 700 West 2nd Street, Stuart Court.
- Lift Station Cleanings- El Bonito Way, East 7th @ J Street, Cambridge Drive.

**Maintenance – Streets:**

- Paving- Military West, Rose Drive, Lloyd Court, Solano Square, Capitol Drive.
- Potholes- Southampton Road, Industrial Way, Adams Street, Reservoir Road, Park Road, First Street, East 2nd Street.
- Sign Maintenance- West 9th Street, Park Road, Mallard Drive, Industrial Way, Noyes Court, East 2nd Street, East 3rd Street, Southampton Road, Hastings Drive, Capitol Drive, West J Street (school limits), Rose Drive (school limits), West End Bike Route.
- Miscellaneous- Rose Drive Pedestrian Bridge graffiti removal, weekly Bus Stop trash & graffiti removal, weekly 3rd St Pedestrian Tunnel wash down & graffiti removal, dumped debris clean up Reservoir Rd, Corporation Yard Du All Safety items, Forklift Training.
- Mains Cleaned City Wide- Service Calls 2,093', Scheduled 5,965'. 8,058' Total

**Maintenance - Water Distribution:**

- 13 jobs total, as well as services, USA's, and meter reading.
- 10 service line leaks, 4 of which were in he Water's End subdivision. Replaced a total of 230' of water service line for the month.
- Also replaced one Fire Hydrant which was struck by a vehicle, restored the street, and responded to 3 dirty water calls as a result.

- *Public Works*



**JAMES LEMOS SWIM CENTER STAFFING UP:** Lifeguard Training and Lifeguard Training Prep Classes are being offered this spring at the James Lemos Swim Center. Lifeguard Training provides participants with the knowledge and skills to prevent, recognize and respond to emergencies. Session 1 runs **March 9-24** on Saturdays and Sundays. Session 2 runs **April 1-15**, Monday through Friday (the week of Spring Break). Lifeguard Training Prep class is new this year. This class offers students an opportunity to prepare for the prerequisite swimming skills test for the Lifeguard Training course. For more information contact Jill Wynn, Recreation Supervisor at 746.4772. – *Parks & Community Services*



**BENICIA POLICE PROVIDE ESCORT TO JOE HENDERSON SCHOOL:** On the morning of February 20, Benicia Police School Resource Officers Sam Peterson, Officer Will Patterson and Motor Officer Mark Simonson provided Joe Henderson Elementary School 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student Chloe Morris with a ride to school from her home. Chloe’s parents



were the recipients of a silent auction bid at the schools Country Fair held back in October. Her parents were allowed to follow the motorcade and videotaped the event. Upon arrival at Joe Henderson, Chloe was a “big hit” at the school. Several times a year, Benicia schools ask permission of the Police Department to auction off an event like this. The auction item is a very popular item bid on by many of the parents hoping to give their kids a special moment. – *Police Department*

**BENICIA – THIS PLACE HAS HISTORY (LIBRARY INNOVATION GRANT):** The Library recently received a grant for \$15,000 to fund a project using QR codes. The QR codes will be placed at locations throughout the city to share historic photos, information and other materials related to the site. The Library will be working with the Benicia Historical Museum and other partners on the project and hopes to have the QR codes go live in June 2013. – *Library*



**HIDDEN TREASURE:** Have you ever seen the famous sculpture by Benicia's own artist Robert Arneson at Turnbull Park in the Benicia Marina? Robert Arneson was born and raised here in Benicia. His works of art are featured all over of the world. The Vasquez Family of Benicia shared with us their holiday picture with their sons Oliver & Eli at Turnbull Park and the Arneson sculpture. Be sure to stop by and check it out for yourself. – *Parks & Community Services*



**BENICIA FIRE DEPARTMENT'S EXPLORER PROGRAM:** On Tuesday, February 19, Benicia Fire Explorers had the pleasure of hosting hang gliding pilots Gregg Sugg and Robert Moore at Fire Station 11. Sugg and Moore are longtime hang gliding enthusiasts who shared their love of the sport with the group. The two hour show-and-tell was very exciting and was a different type of training than the Explorers are used to.



The Benicia Fire Explorer Program has been a part of the Benicia community for over forty years. The group began as the Benicia Youth Volunteers on March 17, 1971 with eleven youths from the city. Over the years the group has become affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America and is a part of the Mount Diablo Silverado Chapter as Post 7201.

The Explorers meet on the first and third Tuesdays of every month from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Their training is usually held at Fire Station 11, but you might also see them training at various other Benicia locations including the Clock Tower and Ninth Street Park. Explorer training consists of medical, rescue and fire situations that are as real as they can be without the risk of an IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health) environment. The Explorers learn how to put on protective clothing, and use the same tools as the professional Benicia Firefighters.

The Benicia Fire Explorers Program gives the youth and young adults of Benicia a look into the profession of firefighting along with providing an opportunity to see if it is a career path they may want to follow. In the past, many of the Explorers have moved on to careers in the fire service including members of Benicia's current staff. – *Fire Department*

**SWING DANCE EVENT AT THE LIBRARY:** Join us for an evening of swing dancing co-hosted by the Benicia High School Swing Dance Club at the Library on Saturday, March 9, 5:00-7:00 PM. There will be a brief lesson before the open dancing starts. Dancers are encouraged to dress in swing dance clothing! – *Library*



**DETECTIVE CRIADO RECEIVES CHIEFS MEDAL:** On February 27, Benicia Police Chief Andrew Bidou awarded Youth Services Bureau Detective Edward “Ted” Criado the Benicia Police Department’s Chiefs Medal. The Chiefs Medal is awarded for outstanding performance which is worthy of special recognition.



Two separate investigations were listed on the nomination form. One of the cases involved a Benicia youth reporting she had been the victim of sexual abuse by her step-father. This case began in 2011, and because of pressure put on the juvenile victim from family members, she recanted her story. In 2012 she again came forward to Detective Criado and again provided information about the on-going sexual abuse she was a victim of and admitted she was pressured last time to not press charges. This time she provided information that led to Detective Criado obtaining a search warrant for the suspect’s apartment. This search revealed evidence that corroborated the victim’s allegations. Ultimately, the suspect was arrested and is being held on two million dollar bail. Detective Criado was praised for his tenacity and hard work he provided during this almost two year investigation.

The second case in this nomination involved two women making allegations against the father of their children that he was sexually abusing the children. This case also took many hours of Detective Criado’s time to properly conduct interviews with all involved parties. Ultimately, due to inconsistencies and contradictions in statements made by both women, Detective Criado was prompted to request charges be filed against the women for making a false report. The case has been sent to the district attorney’s office for review.

Because of the confidential nature involved with the work Detective Criado performs, many of the facts have been intentionally omitted. However, both of these cases generated thousands of papers of documentation and hundreds of hours of his time investigating. – *Police Department*

**NEW NAME, SAME GARBAGE SERVICE:** Allied Waste is changing their name. Republic Services, parent company for Allied Waste, will be the name you see on their trucks and mailings. Republic Services assures they will provide the same great service, and will remain an environmental partner you can count on. – *City Manager’s Office*



**NEW GARBAGE SERVICE GUIDE:** Your service guide will arrive in your mailbox shortly. Check your 2013 Service Guide Calendar for the Reuse Pick-Up Schedule, New Compost Classes and information on...

- Dates for yard waste pick-ups, household hazardous waste appointments and reuse days.
- Clean out of harmful chemicals piled up in the garage.
- How to donate items that can be reused and reduce clutter in your home.
- Prescription Take-Back Day on Saturday, **April 27**, 10:00AM-2:00PM at the Benicia Police Department, 200 East L Street.
- And how to call Customer Service to schedule appointments: 707.747.0608.

-City Manager's Office



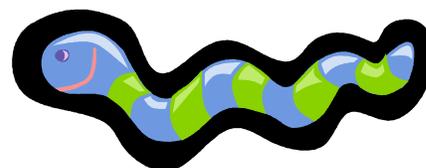
**CLOTHING SWAP & RE-CONSTRUCTION AT THE LIBRARY:** Teens were invited to “shop” for new clothes at a Library swap event on January 18. After shopping, they took their time creating new fashions by cutting up old t-shirts and making shirts, headbands and scarves out of them! – *Library*

**TIME TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS:** Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, **March 10** at 2:00 AM. Turn your clocks forward one hour and remember to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors. – *Library*.



**FREE COMPOSTING CLASSES AND COMPOST GIVE-AWAY FOR BENICIA RESIDENTS:** There are many upcoming composting events:

- Free compost give-away: Saturday, **March 16**, 10:00AM - 1:00PM at the Corporation Yard, 2400 East 2nd Street. (Bring your own container • 23 gallons per household)
- Free composting class: (New) **Make Your Own Worm Bin**, Saturday, **April 13**, 9:00AM at Avant Garden, First & D Streets.
- Compost give-away after this class at the Corporation Yard, approx. 11:00AM – 1:00PM. Please RSVP to reserve your supplies, 925.671.5814 or [mknutson@republicservices.com](mailto:mknutson@republicservices.com).
- Free composting class: **Refresh Your Composting Skills**, Saturday, **June 22**, 9:00 AM at Avant Garden, First & D Street.
- Free Class: **Cooking Fresh from Your Garden and the Farmers Market**, Thursday, **September 19**, 4:00PM, at Avant Garden, First & D Streets.
- Free Class: **Sustainable Citizen - It Pays To Be Green**, Thursday, **November 14**, 6:00 PM at the Benicia Community Center, 370 East L Street.



Classes and Compost occur rain or shine (We have canopies!) For Information and to RSVP, call 925.671.5814 or [mknutson@republicservices.com](mailto:mknutson@republicservices.com). – *City Manager's Office*

**ANNUAL QUILT DISPLAY IN THE LIBRARY:** In honor of [National Quilting Month](#), the [Carquinez Strait Stitchers](#) display some of their stunning quilts in the Library for the entire month of March. We hope the public will come take a look at this year's fabulous designs where the quilts represent letters of the alphabet (I = Iris, K= Kite, T= Tic Tac Toe, U = Umbrella, etc.). - *Library*



**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY DONATE OVER \$70,000 TO THE LIBRARY IN 2012-13:** With money earned from their monthly booksales and ongoing used book sales in the book nook of the Library, the [Friends of the Benicia Public Library](#) earned more than \$70,000 during the last calendar year. Since most books sell for \$.50 to \$1.00, with special priced books averaging about \$3.00/book, this type of donation clearly demonstrates the hard work and commitment of the Library Friends. Due to their huge success, this group generously donated more than \$70,000 to the Library. Money is used for many of the programs the Library offers, including this month's Fado concert (and other adult concerts and programs), summer reading program performers, and teen events. Thank you Friends of the Library Board and members! - *Library*



#### 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**

**[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**