

Having trouble viewing this email?[Click here](#)



City Manager's Report

City of Benicia
March 11, 2015

In This Issue

Fond Farewell

Students Ride FREE

The Pool is Open!

Personnel News

Shredding Opportunity

Opt-Out Reminder

Sunshine Week

Toilet Leak Detection

Welcome to the latest edition of the *City Manager's Report* from City of Benicia City Manager Brad Kilger. The *City Manager's Report* is published twice monthly highlighting the activities of the departments of our full-service city. Previous editions are available on the City of Benicia [City Manager's page](#).

Please click the Join our Mailing List button in the left to subscribe to the City Manager's Report and receive important messages from the City of Benicia and click these links to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Brad

- [Senior Center Celebrations](#)
- [Emergency Shelter Exercise](#)
- [Youth Commission Update](#)
- [Public Works Update](#)

Quick Links

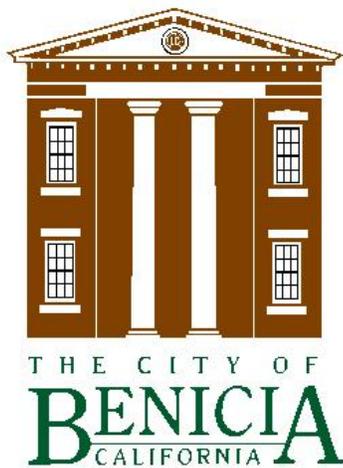
- [City of Benicia](#)
- [Economic Development](#)
- [Visit Benicia](#)
- [Benicia Library](#)
- [Benicia Saves Water](#)
- [Sustainable Benicia](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Forward to a Friend



Email your questions or comments to edev@ci.benicia.ca.us or call 707.746.4202



A Fond Farewell

Opt-Out Reminder

Here is information from MCE (Marin Clean Energy) on the choice you need to make soon about your electric energy provider:



Your electric account(s) will be enrolled with MCE's low-cost, cleaner power in May 2015 - [unless you choose another option.](#)

The Benicia City Council has voted to join MCE, a not-for-profit, community-based organization that partners with PG&E to provide your electric service. MCE offers choices for 50-100% renewable energy from solar, wind, bioenergy, geothermal and hydroelectricity. By creating market competition, MCE allows you to choose your energy provider and reduce the environmental impact associated with the energy your use, all at stable rates.

Aside from low rates and cleaner energy generation, not much will change. PG&E will still handle electric delivery, maintain the power lines, read your meter and send your monthly bill. Your bill will include charges for both PG&E electric delivery and MCE electric generation. You will never be double-billed for your service because MCE's low generation rates will replace PG&E's.

Here are your options and how to make your choice: Call 1.888.632.3674 or visit www.mceCleanEnergy.org/Benicia to opt out or sign up for Deep Green. Please have your PG&E account number on hand to process your request.

How to Make Your Choice

MCE's Light Green 50% renewable energy:

Do nothing and your account will automatically be enrolled in May 2015

MCE's Deep Green 100% renewable energy (A penny more per kilowatt-hour, or about \$5/month for the average home, buys you 100% renewable energy):

PG&E's 22%* renewable energy:

**Most recently reported by PG&E. To buy your energy from PG&E, opt out of MCE renewable energy content will increase over time.*

MCE Terms and Conditions of Service

RATES

MCE electric generation rates are stable and cost-competitive. Any changes to



Ashley Howe, Recreation Supervisor for Benicia Parks & Community Services is leaving the City of Benicia Parks & Community Services Department to work for the City of San Rafael Recreation Department. Ashley returns to the community where she was born and raised. Staff is sad to see her go but happy for her as she starts this new chapter of her life.

Ashley accomplished much in her 7 1/2 years with the City of Benicia. A few examples:

- Benicia Activity Guide
- Supervised most classes offered
- Benicia Clock Tower Rentals and all park rentals, and
- Co-chaired the 1st annual Community Clean Up, and much more.

Good Luck, Ashley!! - Parks & Community Services

Students Ride FREE During Spring Break



No gimmicks, no strings, no red

MCE rates will be adopted at duly noticed public MCE Board meetings. Changes to PG&E or MCE rates will impact cost comparisons between MCE and PG&E. PG&E charges MCE customers a monthly Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) and Franchise Fee Surcharge. These fees are always included in our cost comparisons. View MCE rates and PG&E cost comparisons at www.mceCleanEnergy.org/rates or call 1.888.632.3674 for more information. These rates and cost comparisons may change over time.

Financial assistance programs like CARE (California Alternative Rates for Energy), FERA (Federal Electric Rate Assistance) and Medical Baseline Allowance remain the same with MCE. If you are enrolled in any of these programs with PG&E, you will continue to be enrolled if you choose MCE.

BILLING

You will receive a single monthly bill from PG&E which will include MCE's electric generation charge. MCE's electric generation charge replaces PG&E's electric generation charge. MCE's charge is not a duplicate charge or extra fee. PG&E will continue to charge for electric delivery services. If you opt out of MCE, PG&E will resume charging you for electric generation.

ENROLLMENT

As a not-for-profit, community based organization*, MCE will become the default electric generation provider in May 2015. California State Assembly Bill 117, passed and signed into law in 2002, requires that programs like MCE automatically enroll customers.

Your account will be automatically enrolled with MCE's Light Green 50% renewable energy service on your regularly scheduled meter read date in May 2015. You may request to opt out at any time. You may also choose Deep Green 100% renewable energy. To opt out, or to sign up for Deep Green, call 1.888.632.3674 or visit www.mceCleanEnergy.org. Please have your PG&E account information on hand to process your request.

*MCE is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from Marin County, Unincorporated Napa County and the Cities of Benicia, El Cerrito, Richmond and San Pablo. We're committed to protecting customer privacy. Visit www.mceCleanEnergy.org/privacy to learn more.

OPT OUT

You may request to opt out of MCE at any time by calling 1.888.632.3674 or by visiting www.mceCleanEnergy.org/opt-out. Please have your PG&E account information on hand to process your request.

If you do not opt out before MCE service starts or within 60 days after MCE service starts you will be subject to the payment of a one-time administrative fee (\$5 residential and \$5-25 commercial), will not have the option to return to MCE for one year and will be subject to PG&E's terms and conditions of service. For information on PG&E's terms and conditions visit www.mceCleanEnergy.org/terms. You will not be charged an administrative fee if you opt out before MCE service starts or within the first 60 days after your enrollment with MCE, or if you cancel electric service. Your opt out request must be received five business days prior to your account meter read date in order to switch service to PG&E before your next billing cycle begins. Your account will be transferred to PG&E on your meter read date and cannot be transferred during a billing cycle. You will be charged for all electricity procured by MCE on your behalf prior to the cancellation or transfer of electric service to PG&E.

tape - just FREE! Students of any age (elementary to college) can ride all LOCAL buses FREE from **Monday, March 30 until Sunday, April 12**. Youth 6-18 ride for FREE, and college students must present their student ID. Just board the bus, present your ID and ride for FREE. Spring Break just got that much more fun, easier and of course cheaper!

This is the third year in a row that Sol Trans has offer a Spring Break promotion and, Sol Trans Board Chairperson, Mayor Osby Davis had this to say, "There is value in getting our kids out of the house and active in the community. This is one of the reasons why SolTrans continues to offer Spring Break promotions. Taking the bus is a 'healthy' habit that involves walking and engaging with others in the community, which is what we want our kids to do more of these days."

SolTrans will often run specials and other free service and/or shuttles in support of events in Vallejo and Benicia. For more information about this or other services they provide visit them on the web at www.SolTransRide.com.

Solano County Transit (SolTrans) has been the public transportation provider for south Solano County since July 2011. SolTrans provides local and regional fixed routes, complementary paratransit, dial-a-ride service, and subsidized taxi programs. The agency is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that is governed by a six-member Board of Directors, composed of two representatives from the cities of Benicia and Vallejo, Solano County's representative on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission

FAILURE TO PAY

MCE may transfer your account to PG&E upon 14 calendar days' written notice to you if you fail to pay your bill. If your service is transferred you will be required to pay the termination fee described above.

Clean energy makes a difference...and so do low rates. When you choose MCE, you get both. Based on proposed rates,* the average home will save approximately \$17.28 per year with MCE's Light Green 50% renewable energy service. Electric delivery rates are the same for MCE and PG&E customers. Electric generation rates are different for MCE and PG&E customers.

Cost comparisons are subject to change based on PG&E or MCE generation rate adjustments. MCE typically changes its rates once per year in April. PG&E typically changes its rates about three times per year.

For more information about rates visit www.mceCleanEnergy.org/residential-rates or give us a call at 1.888.632.3674. Press O to speak with a customer service specialist.

*The above comparison is based on a typical usage of 463 kWh at PG&E's rates effective January 1, 2015 and MCE's proposed rates to take effect on April 1, 2015 under the Res-1/E-1 rate schedule. Costs shown are an average of summer and winter rates in baseline territory X with gas heating; actual differences may vary depending on usage, rate schedule and other factors.

**Most recently reported by PG&E.
-Community Development

Sunshine Week is March 15-21

It is the 10 Year Anniversary of Benicia's Sunshine Ordinance which added Title 4 to the Benicia Municipal Code. Title 4 is what is known as a "Sunshine Law". Sunshine Laws are local laws that give rights of access to the public above and beyond the rights protected by state laws such as the Brown Act and Public Records Act. Benicia is one of only nine local governments that have enacted such laws.

The City of Benicia is dedicated to ease of access to city government so that the people will be more informed about what their city is doing, and so that they may be involved in a more meaningful and knowledgeable way; and to place the City of Benicia at the forefront of open government practices in California.

In 2005, the City Council adopted its Open Government Ordinance with the intention of increasing the public trust and confidence in the city government, as well as public awareness and knowledge about their government, with open meetings, easier access to public records, ethical guidelines and a watchdog commission, which we now call the Open Government Commission. The Commission members have actively worked to improve public access to promote an open and ethical government.

(MTC), and a representative from the Solano Transportation Authority. - *City Manager's Office*

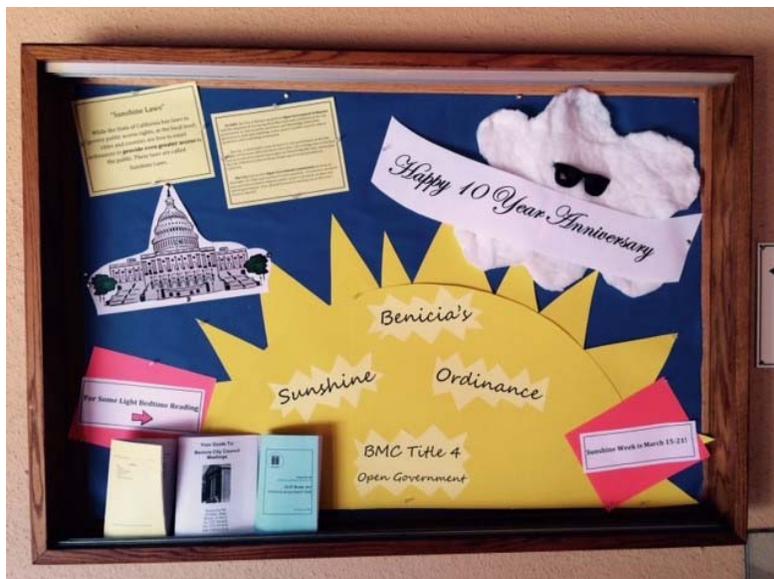
The Pool is Open!



The James Lemos Swim Center at 181 East J Street is now open for the 2015 season. Currently, Lap Swim is Monday - Friday, 3:30 - 6:00PM and Saturday & Sunday 10:00AM - 3:00PM. The Benicia High School Swim Team practices weekdays after school. As the days get longer, the closing time will be extended; call the pool (707.746.4286) or check your Benicia activity guide (mailed to local homes April 1) for details.

Registration is now open for spring swim lessons and youth water polo classes - sign up early! - *Parks & Community Services*

Personnel News



Stop by and check out the bulletin board outside the City Attorneys' Office created by Admin Clerk Marilyn Cech and pick up information about the Sunshine ordinance and open government in Benicia. If you have questions on how to speak at a City Council or Commission meeting, how to find record, or other information, contact the City Attorney's Office at 707.746.4216.- *City Attorney*

Toilet Leak Detection Water Conservation

Did you know leaking toilets cause more water waste than any other fixture in the home? Even a silent leak will waste from 30 - 500 gallons of water per day. The ones you can hear waste much, much more. Such wastage can normally be attributed to a faulty water level adjustment or to a leaky flapper valve.

Most people will say their toilet does not leak. There is one sure way to find out. Put a few drops of food dye in the tank. After 15 minutes, look in the bowl to see if the water has taken on the color. If it has, then your toilet is leaking and it is time to repair the flapper valve. After installing a new flapper, run the dye test again to assure the leak has been fixed. If the leak persist (and every now and then it will), you are probably going to have to replace the entire flush valve.





Lisa Kemmer has joined the City of Benicia as the new Administrative Secretary in the Public Works Department. Lisa has worked for several public agencies including the San Benito County Water District, City of Sunnyvale, Solano Irrigation District and the City of Davis. Her wealth of experience includes water conservation, construction bidding, contract management, records management, and grant management, as well as completing three Urban Water Management Plans.

She and her husband and family reside in Fairfield and enjoy working outside in their garden, watching the Warriors win and spending time with family and friends. - *Public Works*

Please join me in welcoming Lisa to the City of Benicia family. - *City Manager*



It's a good idea to avoid using caustic toilet bowl cleaners such as toilet tank tablets. These products alter the pH of water in your toilet tank and damage plastic and rubber toilet parts leading to premature failure of these parts and causing leaks.

Sometimes toilets will only leak at night. This is because people use much less water during these hours and in many municipal water systems the water pressure will rise. It is not uncommon for the water pressure to rise by 15 to 20 psi at night. This rise in pressure could cause "water creep" inside your toilet tank by 1/2 inch or more. That is why the toilet manufactures normally suggest that the water level be set at approximately one inch below the top of the overflow tube. If you only notice your toilet running in the middle of the night adjust the water level so it is lower in the tank.

For more detailed information on toilets and repairs, check out this website: <http://h2ouse.org/tour/bath.cfm>. - *Public Works*

Celebrations at the Senior Center

Benicia Parks & Community Services Department and Benicia Seniors have had a busy two months celebrating Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year. They began the year with a wonderful lunch and jazz performance by Ms. Honey & Dan in January. In February, they enjoyed a delicious luncheon catered by Szechaun House celebrating Chinese New Year.



In addition to their luncheons, on Wednesday mornings, from 9:30-11:30, a Senior Café at the Senior Center is hosted by Lindsay Dion, Recreation Coordinator. Seniors are able to drop in during that time and spend the morning socializing with friends, playing games or catching up on the morning news while enjoying a cup of coffee and breakfast treats. - *Parks & Community Services*

Emergency Shelter Exercise

On Saturday, March 7, several organizations participated in an Emergency Shelter exercise in Benicia. The organizations involved included Benicia Emergency Response Team (BERT), Benicia Amateur Radio Club (BARC), Benicia Fire Department, Noah's Wish, and the American Red Cross.

There were approximately 70-participants in the exercise which was in follow up to a series of



The Benicia Police Department is pleased to announce the recent selection of Officer Kenyatta Nathaniel as the next School Resource Officer at the Benicia Middle School. Kenyatta will begin the three-year assignment at the start of the next school year in August. She will be replacing current School Resource Officer Sam Peterson, who intends to retire at the end of the school year.

Kenyatta was hired by the Benicia Police Department in August 2012. Prior to her employment with the Benicia Police Department, she was a police officer with the Sacramento Police Department. During her tenure in Sacramento one of her assignments was working as a School Resource Officer.

Benicia Middle School Principal Christina Moore and the Police Department Administration are excited to have Kenyatta as the School Resource Officer. With Kenyatta's experience and background there is no doubt she will be very successful in this new assignment. - *Police Department*

Upcoming Shredding Opportunity



Benicia residents have a couple of options for personal document

training courses offered over the past year on shelter management for both people and animals. The event also served as an opportunity to work with the American Red Cross,



who are responsible for overseeing the shelter operations in a disaster situation. In addition, the exercise allowed the trained shelter workers the opportunity to work with the equipment and systems that would be used in an actual shelter. This would include some of the American Red Cross shelter equipment that is currently available in Benicia. This past year the Fire Department arranged for the delivery and storage of a shelter cache for up to 100 people.

Since animals are not normally allowed within the shelters, it is important that their needs are addressed as well. Training for the management of an emergency animal shelter was provided recently by Noah's Wish. This recent exercise also provided the participants the opportunity to reinforce the training from that program. The Fire Department has received various grant funds in the past year that have allowed for the acquisition of equipment to provide shelter for a number of animals.

Food for the participants was supplied by the San Francisco Police Credit Union. All in all, this was a great day and opportunity for the various volunteers to further their ability to support the community in the event of an emergency. - *Fire Department*

Youth Commission Update

The Benicia Youth Commissioners delivered Valentine goodie-bags to residents at Casa de Vilarrasa (senior housing) in Benicia on February 13. Police Officer Sam Peterson and Recreation Coordinator Lindsay Dion accompanied Youth Commissioners to deliver the Valentines and spend time with the residents. - *Parks & Community Services*

shredding. [Valcore Community Recycling's](#) facility at 38 Sheridan Street in Vallejo will take your papers and store them in locked containers until the shredding truck comes. They are open Monday-Friday, 9:30AM-4:00PM (closed from 1-2PM). The cost is \$.50/pound and may be paid pay credit or debit cards only.

If you'd like to see your papers shredded, stop by Valcore Recycling on Sheridan Street on the third Saturday of the month, 10:00AM-2:00PM. The cost is \$.50/pound with a \$10 minimum. Payment may be made by check or cash only. - *City Manager's Office*



Update from Public Works

Here's a look at what the Public Works Department was up to January. Maybe they were in your neighborhood?

Maintenance - Streets:

- **Repairs** - Lake Herman Road, where the edge of the road and embankment were washed out from the major storm in December. and a sink hole on Industrial Way
- **Potholes** - Filled potholes throughout the city
- **Trash Pick-Up** - Trash and debris on Lake Herman Road and Reservoir Road
- **Weed Abatement** - Sprayed weed control product along East 2nd Street, Lake Herman Road, Reservoir Road, Chelsea Hills and Cambridge Drive

Maintenance - Sewer:

- **Lift Station Cleanings** - On the first Wednesday of each month a Public Works Maintenance crew is scheduled to assist Wastewater Treatment personnel with the cleaning of the City's sanitary sewer lift stations. In all, there are 23 lift stations that receive the preventative maintenance on a rotational basis with higher volume stations receiving more frequent cleaning throughout the year. A typical month would call for three to four stations receiving maintenance by a crew consisting of two Field Collections Personnel and one Pump Mechanic. The City's combination vehicle (hydro-jet) is used to evacuate floating debris in the wet well, in conjunction with water jetting to clean the side walls, pump and electronic level sensing equipment.



Maintenance - Water:

- **Water Leak Repairs** - 200 Essex Drive, 400 East H Street, 300 Gull Point, Monte Vista Court, El Paseo, 100 Carlisle Way, 900 West Sixth Street.
- Meter Readings and Turn Offs
- Installed a new 2-inch water meter on Clearview Circle.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects:

- The pilot project from BioprocessH2o has been shut down as it failed to meet the City's expectations for filtration and reliability. We are reaching out to other companies whose systems might better fit our needs.
- Another project completed in January was reroofing of our effluent building. City staff prepared the roof by removal of old systems that were no longer being utilized. Next came a siding company to do the siding and finally the roofing was installed by a roofing company. It all came out really well as seen in these pictures.



WWTP Plant Performance:

- The Plant processed 81.2 million gallons of raw wastewater with no Permit exceedances.
- Nutrient pollution removal; BOD = 97. % TSS = 98.



WWTP Plant Maintenance:

Staff performed 52 preventive maintenance tasks as well as closing out 4 corrective maintenance work orders.
 - *Public Works*

Contact Info

Email your questions or comments to City Manager Brad Kilger at edev@ci.benicia.ca.us. For additional information on any of the items in this report, please contact one of the following departments:

- [City Manager/Human Resources/I.T./City Clerk](#): 707.746.4200
- [City Attorney](#): 707.746.4216
- [Community Development](#): 707.746.4280
- [Economic Development](#): 707.746.4202
- [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

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to tdavena@ci.benicia.ca.us by edev@ci.benicia.ca.us | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)



City of Benicia Office of Economic Development | 250 East L Street | Benicia | CA | 94510