



City Manager's Report

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April 7, 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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**RAIN = NO NEED TO WATER OUTDOORS:** Who needs sprinklers when you've got rain? The fact is – no one does. So turn off you sprinklers!

State water officials are stressing that message as they ask residents to shut off their sprinkler systems because Mother Nature already watered California lawns with the recent rains. The sprinkler shutdown will save precious water and help the state make it through the long, dry, summer months ahead. After all, California is still in a drought, despite the recent rains.



To illustrate the recent rain's impact on landscapes all you need is a screw driver. If a screw driver slips easily into soil, there is no need to water. Who knew a screw driver could be a water conservation tool?

But to outsmart your automatic sprinkler system, you have to turn it off. That means finding the controller box (usually in the garage) and flipping the switch to off. The [SaveOurH2O.org](http://SaveOurH2O.org) website has lots of useful information on irrigation system and even has links to irrigation controller manuals in case you have lost yours.

Not everyone knows that saving outdoor water is a critical step in water conservation. Most people think more water is used indoors than outdoors. Not true. 50% or more of water used by homeowners goes to irrigate landscaping. So shut down your sprinklers and conserve that precious H<sub>2</sub>O. Mother Nature's got you – and your lawn – covered with her recent rains. – *Public Works*



**POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT AVAILABLE:** The Benicia Police Department's monthly report for February is now available. It contains a monthly wrap-up of Community Services, Professional Development, Statistics, and Interesting Case Summaries. [Click here](#) to read more. – *Police Department*

**ART WALK IS BACK:** The Benicia Second Saturdays Art Walk kicks off the 2014 season **Saturday, April 12** at more than 20 downtown venues that include businesses, galleries, and public art. The Art Walk takes place on the second Saturday of each month, April-October, 3:00-7:00 PM, offering the opportunity to stroll and experience art in downtown Benicia. Participating venues feature local artwork; fine art, visual, musical, performance, literary, culinary, fashion, and decorative art. Look for the blue Benicia Art Walk banners on participating businesses and pick up the brochure listing venues on the color-coded map. Brochures are available at Benicia Public Library, Benicia Chamber of Commerce, Benicia Main Street, Benicia State Capitol, and online at [VisitBenicia.ORG/arts/visual-arts](http://VisitBenicia.ORG/arts/visual-arts).

The 2014 Second Saturdays Art Walk has a different focus each month.

- April 12: Exploration of Steampunk
- May 10: Vintage Home & Garden Tour, Celebrating Mother's Day
- June 14: The Art of Glassblowing
- July 12: A Great Summer Day by the Bay, Go Fly a Kite!
- August 9: Benicia Peddler's Fair, look for Art Walk banners
- September 13: Walk on Art – The Granizo Tiles
- October 11: Celebration of Local Young Artists



April's Second Saturdays Art Walk is sure to be an entertaining afternoon with an exploration of the Steampunk movement co-sponsored by the City of Benicia and Arts Benicia. Steampunk is described as where the Industrial Revolution meets the Victorian era. Where old meets new and where sci-fi meets art and fashion. In addition to art at more than the regular locations, 16 hosted Steampunk artists will be celebrating the first Art Walk of the season with clothing, jewelry, art cars, live music, wine, and lots of art. This event is free, so make plans to stroll, shop, sip, and dine downtown on Saturday. – *Economic Development*

**DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY:** The next Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is **Saturday, April 26**. Keep expired and unused medication out of landfills and waterways by bringing it to Benicia Police Department, 200 East L Street between 10:00AM – 2:00PM.

**Don't throw Expired or Unused Drugs in the Garbage or Down a Toilet...**

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY**  
Saturday, April 26th, 2014  
10:00am - 2:00pm

**Benicia Police Department**  
200 East L Street / (707) 746-4268

**Dixon Police Department**  
201 West A Street / (707) 678-7070

**Rio Vista Police Department**  
50 Poppy House Road / (707) 374-6366

**Solano County Sheriff Coroner's Office**  
520 Clay Street, Fairfield / (707) 784-7500

**Suisun City Police Department**  
701 Civic Center Blvd. / (707) 421-7373

**Travis AFB BX Pharmacy**  
461 Skymaster Blvd. / (707) 423-5345

**Vacaville Police Department**  
660 Merchant Street / (707) 469-4707

**Vallejo Police Department**  
111 Amador Street / (707) 648-4080

<http://Recycle.SolanoCounty.com>

**REMEMBER!** Seal all liquids and creams • Remove personal information • No Sharps

Medication waste is defined as items intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in humans or animals. This includes drug waste, pharmaceutical waste, unused or expired medication, unused or expired drugs, prescription and over-the-counter human drugs, veterinary drugs, diagnostic agents and nutritional supplements. You are asked to seal all liquids and creams and remove personal information. – *Police Department*

**HIRING NEWS:** The City of Benicia is pleased to announce the hiring of Naveed Ashraf as the new Information Technology Manager. Naveed has over 14 years of experience in IT, most recently as the Information Systems Director with Meyer Corporation.



The Benicia Police Department is pleased to announce the hiring of Police Officer Mike Bridges. Mike grew up in Riverside County. After graduating from high school, Mike attended California State University, Fresno, graduating in 2004.



Mike has been in law enforcement since 2005 and has been a peace officer for both the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Police Department and the California Horse Racing Board. When he is not working, he is an assistant wrestling coach for Benicia High School and a Brazilian Jiu Jitsu practitioner. Mike is married and resides in Benicia.

**PROMOTION NEWS:** Ted Corder has been selected as the new FUSS (Field, Utility & Streets Supervisor) in the Public Works Department. Ted started working for the City of Benicia in 2000 as a Field Utility & Streets Journeyman later to be promoted as a Maintenance Worker III (Lead person). He has 17 years' experience in Public Works, including time spent with the City of Vallejo.



Mike Roberts has been promoted to the position of Principal Engineer.

Mr. Roberts is closing in on his 10th year with the City of Benicia and currently manages the Engineering Division. Mike has 25 years of public works experience, is a graduate of the U.C. Davis Engineering School, and has a Master's degree in Public Administration from Cal State East Bay. He is passionate about all things public works related and sees engineering as a platform for delivering service to the public.

Please take the opportunity to welcome Naveed and Mike and congratulate Ted and Mike on their dedication to the City of Benicia as they journey on the exciting adventure that is Public Service. – *Human Resources*

**FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT AVAILABLE:** The Benicia Fire Department's monthly report for March is now available. It contains information about Emergency Operations, Training, and Prevention. [Click here](#) to read more. – *Fire Department*



**BENICIA PD JOINS CRACKDOWN ON TEXTING AND HANDHELD**

**CELL USE BEHIND THE WHEEL:** As part of April's Distracted Driving Awareness Month campaign, Benicia Police Department will be joining with over 200 other local law enforcement agencies and the California Highway Patrol in a month long "zero tolerance" enforcement and education campaign to curb those texting or operating hand-held cell phones while driving. Officers will be on alert throughout the month for those who break cell phone laws and place themselves and others in danger. Special high visibility enforcement operations to cite cell phone violators will take place on **April 3, 8, 17 and 22.**

The increased enforcement and education aims to persuade drivers to recognize the dangers of distracted driving and reduce the number of people impacted by this perilous behavior. The "It's Not Worth It!" theme emphasizes that a phone call or text isn't worth a hefty fine or a collision. The current minimum ticket cost is \$161, with subsequent tickets costing at least \$281.

"We take the issue of distracted driving very seriously," said Benicia Lieutenant Frank Hartig, "because we see the aftermath of these totally preventable crashes. Is that text message or cell phone call really worth \$161, or worse, someone's life?"



Drivers who use hand-held devices are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves. In addition, studies show that texting while driving can delay a driver's reaction time just as severely as having a blood alcohol content of a legally drunk driver. According to research, sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds. Even a three second glance at freeway speeds means a driver has traveled the distance of a football field.

Research shows that there is no difference in the risks between hands-free and hand-held cell phone conversations, both of which can result in "inattention blindness" which occurs when the brain isn't seeing what is clearly visible because the drivers' focus is on the phone conversation and not on the road. When over one third of your brain's functioning that should be on your driving moves over to cell phone talking, you can become a cell phone "zombie." It's not worth it! [Click here](#) for more information. – *Police Department*

**SMALL BUSINESS TRAINING NEWS:** Solano Small Business Development Center and the City of Benicia are co-sponsoring the BUSINESS PLAN 101 workshop conducted by Solano SBDC on **Thursday, April 17**, Noon-2:00 PM at the Benicia City Hall Commission Room.

The workshop covers the basic components of a business plan. Participants will receive an outline for a business plan that can be used as a road map to grow their business or to secure funding for their business. Fee is \$30. [Click here](#) for more information and to register. – *Economic Development*



## **BENICIA EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (BERT)**

**PRACTICES DISASTER RESPONSE SKILLS:** On March 8, BERT members practiced their emergency response skills at the Benicia Community Center. The BERT exercise was in response to a simulated earthquake striking the Bay Area. Upon arrival at the Community Center, BERT members were immediately confronted with a variety of incidents to respond to including house fires, downed power lines, and injured citizens. BERT members

documented the conditions observed, immediately broke into groups, prioritized actions to be taken, assigned groups to specific problems, and communicated back to the command post. The exercise required BERT members to use disaster response tools including equipment carried on Benicia's disaster response trailers.

Exercises like the one held on March 8 will help to ensure that BERT members will be ready to take care of their immediate family and neighbors when disaster strikes.

The next BERT drill is scheduled for **May 3**. The Fire Department commends this volunteer group for their dedication to disaster preparedness. If you'd like to become a member, more information is available at <http://www.beniciacc.org/bert/>. – *Fire Department*



## ANNUAL CITYWIDE GREEN WASTE AND WEED ABATEMENT CLEAN-UP PROGRAM:

The Benicia Fire Department and Republic Services are hosting the annual Citywide Green Waste and Weed Abatement Clean-up Program. This free annual program is for Benicia residents who need to clear their property of weeds and other vegetation. Only green waste/vegetation will be accepted at this event and tree branch cuttings shall be limited to 4 inches in diameter.

The spring clean-up event will be held at the Benicia Corporation Yard, 2400 East Second Street, on **Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27** from 9:00AM-3:00PM both days.

This event is open to Benicia residents only, and is intended for use by homeowners. Proof of residency will be required in order to gain entry. No commercial dumping will be allowed. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact the Benicia Fire Department during business hours at 707.746.4275. – *Fire Department*



## UPDATE ON WASTEWATER WATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECTS:

In the month of March, staff continued a couple of projects which ran through March and into April to finish.



The first project started was a backup system for influent pump control.

Also continuing was the project to install new VFDs in MCC

2 to keep them out of the bad environment in the Belt-Press room.



**Staff working on new cabinet control door**



In addition, staff worked on finding and fixing a water leak that was discovered. Thanks go out to Collections for letting them use some of their equipment. – *Public Works*

**ADVANCED AIRWAY TRAINING:** Training and experience are two factors that can turn establishing a patient's airway into just another day at the office for Benicia's Firefighter Paramedics. Paramedics train in awkward and unpredictable situations so they are better prepared to handle the unexpected. Benicia Paramedics recently participated in Advanced Airway training to further enhance the department's ability to rapidly and efficiently support breathing for patients who are unable to breathe on their own. – *Fire Department*



**LEADERSHIP PROGRAM GRADUATION:** On April 3, Benicia Police Department Sergeant Kenny Hart graduated from the prestigious Los Angeles Police Department Leadership Program (formerly known as the LAPD West Point Leadership Program). The graduation was held at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel in Los Angeles. Sgt. Hart attended this training with 28 other police/sheriff officials from agencies around the State of California and Oregon.



This POST approved leadership training consisted of four weeks and 136 hours of training. The course is based directly on the leadership training currently being instructed at the United States Military Academy at West Point. The course teaches students how to think more systematically about leadership, challenges and situations, teaching 27 behavioral science and adult education theories compiled from top universities in the nation. In order to graduate, the students must solve realistic law enforcement leadership problems using the West Point Leadership Program theories, during three different exam settings and complete a minimum 20 page final paper.

Sergeant Hart is one of three current members of the BPD to have completed this course. Sgt. Roger Yokoi and Lt. Frank Hartig have also attended this course. Congratulations to Kenny! – *Police Department*

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE – WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING:** On Thursday, April 3, the Benicia Fire Department hosted National Weather Service - Weather Spotter training at the Benicia Community Center. Storm spotters play a valuable role in the severe weather warning process. The National Weather Service relies on visual observations from spotters to provide critical information that would otherwise not be available to forecasters. Spotter reports are combined with data from Doppler radar and satellite pictures to provide a complete understanding of severe storms and their impact on the public.



Participants at the April 3 training included members of the Benicia Amateur Radio Club (BARC), Benicia Emergency Response Team (BERT) and others interested in assisting the National Weather Service by monitoring our local weather. Upon completion of the two hour session, students were provided an opportunity to become a National Weather Service Spotter.

For more information about the National Weather Service, please visit [www.weather.gov/sacramento](http://www.weather.gov/sacramento). – Fire Department

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

The City Manager’s Report from City of Benicia City Manager Brad Kilger is published twice 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./City Clerk:](#)**

**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**