

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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MAY 19, 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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**IN MEMORIAM:** It is with great sadness that we learn of the passing of City Treasurer H.R. Autz. Mr. Autz, 71, passed away on Friday, May 16, after a long illness. He was a 26 year resident of Benicia and a former Commodore of the Benicia Yacht Club. Mr. Autz was appointed as City Treasurer following the death of City Treasurer Robert Langston in 2012.



Mr. Autz is survived by his wife of 49 years, Christina, his sons Richard and Bryan, and extended family. Memorial services will be held on **Thursday, May 22** at 11:00 AM at Passalacqua Funeral Chapel.

Mr. Autz was proud to let people know that as a child living

in Missouri; he was the model for Norman Rockwell's 1952 *Saturday Evening Post* cover entitled *At the Vets* (shown here).

City Council will discuss filling Mr. Autz's seat at the May 27 City Council meeting. In honor of Mr. Autz position as City Treasurer, City of Benicia flags will be flown at half-staff until his interment. – *City Manager's Office*



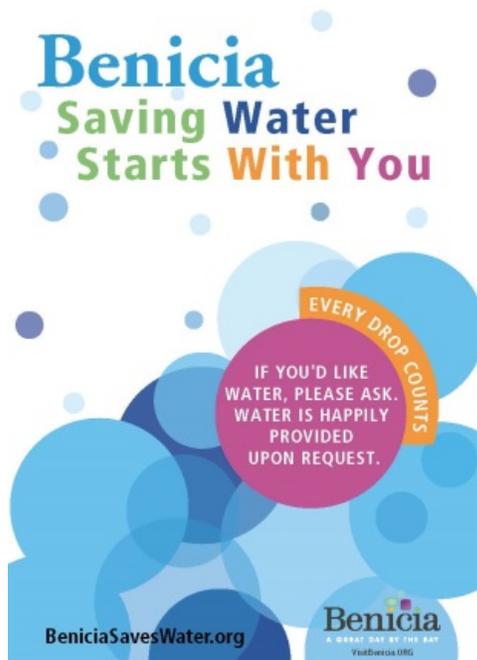
## WHAT IS DRIP IRRIGATION? Drip irrigation is the slow, precise application of water



directly to a plants root. It is an efficient and economical method of watering that can be customized to meet your landscape's specific needs while maintaining an optimum moisture level for your plants, efficiently conserving water that might otherwise be lost. Experts say that drip irrigation is at least 90% more efficient than other irrigation methods and reduces runoff and evaporation. Drip irrigation applies water slowly where it is needed, at the plant's roots.

Drip irrigation involves placing tubing with emitters on the ground alongside the plants. The emitters slowly drip water into the soil at the root zone. With this slow, appropriate application of water, plant health and growth is improved. In addition, drip irrigation helps prevents disease, reduces weed growth, saves time and water, and requires less work and maintenance.

If you are interested in removing your lawn and replacing it with drought tolerant plants and drip irrigation, Solano County Water Agency is offering a rebate of \$1.00 per square foot of lawn removed up to a maximum rebate of \$1,000. To learn more about the program go to [www.SolanoSavesWater.org](http://www.SolanoSavesWater.org) or call 707.745.1113.

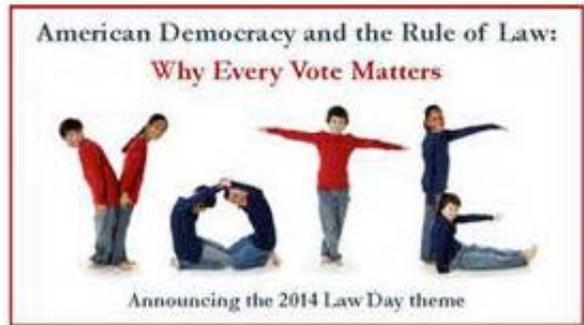


As part of the City's water conservation outreach campaign, the Public Works Department has created yard signs for community members and businesses to display their commitment to using water efficiently. If you live in Benicia and would like to post a water conservation sign in your yard, please call 707.746.4240.

The Office of Economic Development has created table tent cards and distributed them to local restaurants notifying diners that they won't receive automatic water service, encouraging them to ask for water instead. This is a great way for restaurants to show their commitment to reducing water use. – *Public Works*

**LAW DAY COLORING CONTEST:** City Attorney Heather McLaughlin announces the City Attorney's Office Law Day Coloring Contest.

In recognition of Law Day, May 1, 2014, the City Attorney's Office is holding a coloring contest. The theme of this year's Law Day is "American Democracy and Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters". McLaughlin encourages artists of all ages and skill levels to join in the Law Day celebration by creating artwork with a voting or election theme. With elections coming up, this contest is a great reminder to get out and vote!



Submissions of artwork can be made to the City Attorney's Office at City Hall, 250 East L Street, between Wednesday, May 1 and **Friday, May 24**. Judging will occur the last week of May. Law Day artwork will be proudly displayed on the bulletin board outside the City Attorney's Office and within the office. Stop by the City Attorney's Office to pick up themed coloring pages or create your own. – *City Attorney*

**M**EMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION: The Benicia Historical Society is hosting the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Ceremony on **Monday, May 26** at 10:00 AM at the Benicia Arsenal Post Military Cemetery on Hospital Drive off of Military East. More than 300 people are expected to attend and hear this year's guest speaker Col. Paul W. Fellingner, Garrison Commander, Presidio of Monterey.



There will be the posting of colors by the Color Guard, 749<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, California National Guard. The Military History Preservation Society's salute detail is representing the various U.S. military units. Diablo Regional Concert Band will perform patriotic music and there will be a reading by Benicia Poet Laureate, Lois Requist, as well as a brief history of the cemetery. A Wreath Laying Ceremony will honor the interred, the program closing with Taps.

The Benicia Historical Society invites you to this event as way to show your respect for those who support and defend the Constitution of the United States.

In honor of Memorial Day, **City of Benicia offices will be closed**. Requests for emergency water and sewer service may be made at the Benicia Police Department, 200 East L Street or 707.745.3412. – *Economic Development*

**FOOD FOR FINES:** For many people in Solano County, hunger is a reality. The Benicia Public Library has found a way to help -- and it provides library users with an opportunity to reduce their library fines at the same time.

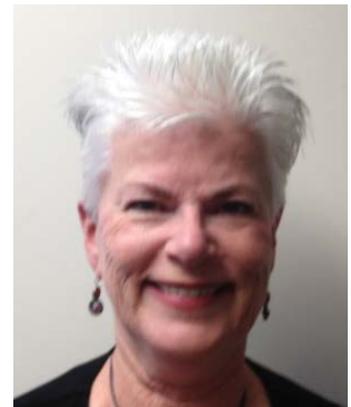
For one week, **May 19 - 25**, the Benicia Public Library will accept non-perishable canned food in lieu of cash payments for fines for overdue library materials. \$1 per can will be taken off the library account, with a maximum of \$5.00 in fines per card waived. No credit will be applied toward charges for items that were lost, damaged or missing. No expired, opened, or dented cans of food will be accepted, and no credit will be extended beyond the existing fine amount. Only non-perishable, store-sealed items will be accepted. No glass, please.



All food will be donated to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, who assure that all of the donations from Food for Fines will stay in Solano County.

Please call for open hours or check the Library website at [www.benicialibrary.org](http://www.benicialibrary.org). A food donation barrel will remain at the Library all summer long, even after the Food for Fines program ends, and patrons are encouraged to continue donating. Every can counts! For more information, contact the Library at 707.746.4343. – *Library*

**WHO'S THAT LADY?** City Attorney Heather McLaughlin is delighted to announce the hiring of Donna Ernst as full-time Legal Technician in the City Attorney's Office. Donna is a long-time Benicia resident who enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren. You might catch her watching one of their recitals or soccer games. Donna was selected for the position after a full recruitment by Human Resources. Former Legal Technician Kathi Molinar will continue to help out. Thanks, Kathi! The Legal Technician position has been under-filled at 20 hours a week, so the City Attorney and staff are looking forward to getting "caught up"! Stop by and welcome Donna to the City of Benicia family. – *City Attorney*



**HOT SUMMER – COOL MOVIES:** Benicia Public Library's Hot Summer – Cool Movies series kicks-off on **Friday, May 23** at 6:30 PM at the Benicia Public Library.



Our film license doesn't let us tell you the title when we publicize online, so here are clues to figure out the movie:

- 1942 movie
- Bogart and Bergman
- "Play it, Sam" is a famous line from the movie

Even if you've seen this classic before, come see it on a big screen! And come vote on the movies we'll be showing in June, July and August! – *Library*

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM:** Sign-ups for the [Benicia Public Library's](#) Summer Reading Program start **June 1**. This summer, children ages 0-14 will have the chance to "Paws to Read" with the Library's summer reading program. The program runs June 1 – August 31. Children may count the amount of time they read or the number of books read – the important thing is that they read in the summer! A study from Dominican University showed that children who participated in a summer reading program had better reading skills at the end of the 3rd grade and scored higher on standardized tests than children who did not participate. Each child who participates can receive up to three prizes:

- A coupon for Carl's Junior in June
- A free book in July
- A prize from our prize box in August

In addition, children can earn stickers: one for every hour they read, or one for every five books. Summer Reading Program [EVENTS](#) start on June 17 and end July 30. Happy Reading!



**ADULT SUMMER READING PROGRAM:** June 1 – August 31, adults can participate in their own summer reading program! Request a Bingo card at the Customer Service Desk and then just fill in the squares to get fun prizes. In addition to reading, you can explore other ways to fill in a square including attending an adult program, a book club, checking out an e-book reader, or downloading an e-book. Here's your chance to try something new and have even more fun reading this summer!

**TEEN SUMMER READING:** Spark A Reaction! A special summer reading program for teens also runs from June 1 – August 31. Sign up for your reading passport to earn raffle tickets for great prizes like an iPod shuffle and other cool stuff. – *Library*

**FIRE DEPARTMENT DEPLOYS NEW CARDIAC MONITORS:** On May 16, the Benicia Fire Department deployed the latest available technology to support the delivery of Emergency Medical Services. The department recently acquired three Zoll Cardiac Monitors. These devices will provide paramedics in the field with the opportunity to perform 12-lead EKG's and to forward that information to the receiving hospital



in advance of patient arrival. This technology allows the hospital staff to determine the best level of treatment for the patient, which may include going directly to the Cardiac Catheter Lab. In addition, the units allow us to perform cardiac pacing, defibrillation, and to monitor the effectiveness of CPR during a cardiac arrest. These units replaced monitors that were approximately 15 years old. – *Fire Department*

**UPDATE FROM PUBLIC WORKS:** Take a look at what the Public Works Department has been up to in April and May. Maybe they were in your neighborhood?

**Engineering:**

- **Kearney Street Pressure Reducing Station**– The Engineering Division is pleased to announce the Kearney Street Pressure Reducing Station is now in service and relieving the high pressure of the water delivered to over 600 homes through the City’s underground piping system. The lowered water pressures will cause less stress on the private plumbing line between the City’s water meter in the sidewalk and entrance to each home, reducing wear and tear.  
The Kearney Street Pressure Reducing Station Project, which had been planned for some time, was publicly bid and the construction contract was awarded to Atlas Peak Construction from Napa. The cost of the project was shared between the City and Waters End developers, Shea homes and Centrex/Pulte Homes. Funding for the City’s portion was previously set aside in the Water Enterprise Fund. The facility is located at the intersection of Kearney Street and McCall Drive and is reducing pressure in the Kearney/McCall/Mcallister area.

**Maintenance Streets:**

- **Patch Paving**– Stuart Court at Devonshire, 2400 East Second Street
- **Weed Abatement Program**– Citywide
- **Repairs**– Wood fence on the 200 block of East O Street, sidewalk tripping hazard at 616 First Street
- **Curb Painting**– Red curbs at 600 Block of West K Street, Military at West 3rd, Stuart Court at Devonshire
- **Special Events**– BEF Run for Education, Benicia Classic Car Show, Farmers Market
- **Miscellaneous**– Storm drain mitigation

**Maintenance Sewer:**

- **Customer Service Calls**– 600 Belvedere Drive, 100 West L Street, 600 West Military East, 1700 Francisca Court, 200 West J Street, 900 East 6th Street, 1900 Lindo Street, 200 West G Street, 1400 Vista Grande Avenue, 100 West H Street, 1000 Bayshore Road.
- **Lift Station Cleanings**– East 7th Street, Wharf Station (Bayshore Road), Barn Station (Panorama Drive), East B Street
- **Repairs and Improvements**– Wastewater Treatment Plant Main and Lateral Replacement, 600 Belvedere Drive – Lateral Replacement, 200 West J Street – Main Replacement, 1000 Bayshore Road – Main Repair
- **Closed Circuit Line Televising**– Belvedere Drive, West J Street, West G Street, O’Hare Road, Vista Grande Avenue.
- **City Wide Line Cleanings**– Service calls 468’, Scheduled 8,345’



**Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects:** In the month of April, Staff continued a couple of projects which will run into May.

- The first project started was a backup system for Influent Pump Control. Originally, we tested an ultra-sonic level indicator but because of the size of the pattern it was not able to be used in the location needed. Staff then looked into what could work and found a laser indicator that we will install in place of the ultra-sonic.



- Continuing and finishing with the project to install new VFDs in MCC 1 for the Belt-Press room. Pictures are Staff working the new cabinet control door and putting on the final touches.
- Finally, there is the replacement pipe project that was completed. Below are the before and after photos.



#### **WWTP Plant Performance:**

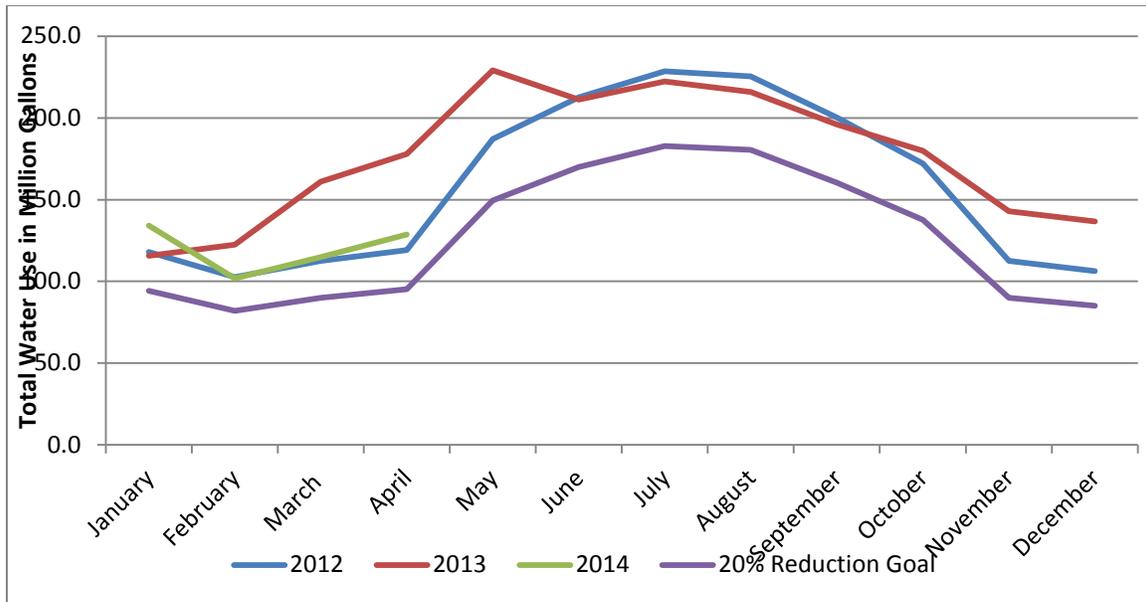
- Staff performed 47 preventive maintenance tasks as well as closing out four corrective maintenance work orders.

#### **WWTP Plant Performance:**

- The Plant processed 85.2 million gallons of raw wastewater with no Permit exceedances.
- Nutrient pollution removal; BOD = 96.3% TSS = 98.3%

#### **Water:**

- **Water Usage**– The following is the current usage of treated water (MG) in the City through April as compared to usage in 2012 and 2013. The purple line shows the usage if customers conserved 20% of their usage:



**Water Supply Procured Since January 1, 2014:**

- State Water Project (North Bay Aqueduct) – 2,671 acre-feet
- Solano Project Water (Putah South Canal) – 976 acre-feet
- Lake Herman Supply (Industrial Usage) – 105 acre-feet

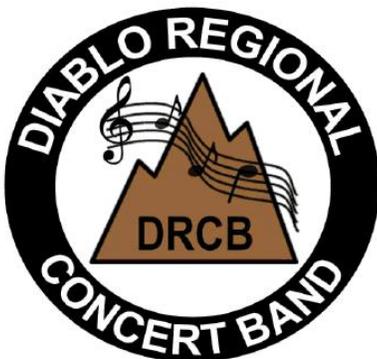
**Water System Operations & Maintenance:**

- Relocated SCADA telemetry base system at the WTP
- Performed thermographic imaging of breakers, motors, starters, and transformers
- Upgraded video surveillance management system at Water Treatment Plant
- Filled Lake Herman to a maximum of 1,250-AF storage
- Inspected seven pressure reducing valve stations
- Constructed valve vault on plant influent pipeline (Plant Influent Improvement Project)

*-Public Works*

**SPRING CONCERT:** Diablo Regional Concert Band is back with its Spring Concert on **Friday, June 6** at 7:00 PM in the Benicia Public Library.

The [Diablo Regional Concert Band](#) began in 1910 as the Martinez Liberty Band. Several conductors led both a Martinez concert band and a marching band. Mr. Bartlettani revived the Municipal Band in 1942 and remained conductor until 1955. Mr. Frank Cavoto conducted the band for sixteen years beginning in the 1992. Cora Martens is the conductor for the 50-member band. The Diablo Regional Concert band is a self-supporting, all-volunteer organization.



Annually, the band performs for the Martinez Memorial Day celebration, the Benicia Library concert series, the Benicia Yacht Club, the Pleasant Hill 4th of July Parade and the Benicia Holy Ghost Parade. It has also performed in the Black Diamond Mines Summer Music Festival, and the Fall Festival in American Canyon. Stop by and enjoy the free Spring Concert. – *Library*

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT TOURS IN SUPPORT OF BENICIA SCHOOLS:**



As a result of a few recent auctions in support of local schools, the Benicia Fire Department hosted a couple of tours and meals at the fire station. On May 8 and 17, we hosted two different groups.

These events serve to benefit the schools and provide the department with an opportunity to showcase our organization to members of the public. – *Fire Department*



**NEW BENICIA BUSINESSES:** The following is a list of new business license applications for newly licensed businesses or businesses with new locations or owners. Please stop by and make them feel welcome:

- **Laurel Environmental Group, LLC** — 3690 Sprig Drive, owner: Laurel Kleiber
- **Bechtel Communications Inc.** — 6500 Goodyear Road, owners: Andrew Milunzi and John Dyson
- **Trybe Creative** (name change only; formerly Wwhite Designs — 940 Adams St. Suite 318, owner: Wendy White
- **Lani Chun DDS, MSD Inc.** DBA: Buchanan Chun Orthodontics — 300 Military west #306, owner: Lani Chun
- **Total Western Inc.** — 3985 Teal Drive, owners: Paul F. Conrad and Mary Ann Pool
- **3 Step Title and Reg. Services** — 3001 Bayshore Road, Suite 16, owner: Rita Maldonado
- **Mark Graves Designs** — 1350 Hayes Street, Suite B, owner: Mark Graves
- **Benicia Boxing and Martial Arts** (second location) — 2014 Columbus Parkway, owner: Amandip Gellon
- **Golden West Smog and Service** — 4592 East 2nd street, Suite D, owner: Nicholas Kosta

- *Economic Development*



**MEDITATION IN THE LIBRARY:** Meditation: isn't it time you learned how? Marshall Zaslove, MD, Board certified psychiatrist, best-selling author, and experienced seminar leader, will be at the Benicia Public Library on **Thursday, June 12** at 6:30 PM to discuss how to find relief from a shifting world, how to access that personal haven within each of us, and where we will find calm, peace, and even bliss. He will teach how to meditate on the inner light, and talk a little about some of the latest discoveries in the preventative, healing and pain-relieving effects of meditation.



For more information, contact the Library at [www.BeniciaLibrary.org](http://www.BeniciaLibrary.org) or 707.746.4343. – *Library*

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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**