

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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MAY 20, 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 NAMED ONE OF THE TOP TEN PLACES FOR FAMILIES TO LIVE:** ZipRealty,



Inc. has released its first annual ranking of the **Best Places for Families to Live: Top School Districts with Most Affordable Housing in the Bay Area.**

The public school rankings were compiled by factoring each school district's School Score (API) with median price per square foot in that district. To be considered, at least 10 home sales must have closed in that school district over the course of 2012. Benicia scored in the Top Ten at number 9. The list and more information are available [online](#).

– *Economic Development*

### **ANNUAL GREEN WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT A SUCCESS:** On May 18 and 19, the

Benicia Fire Department and Allied Waste Services hosted the Annual Green Waste and Weed Abatement Clean-up Program at the Benicia Corporation Yard on East Second Street. This annual program is held for Benicia residents who want to remove weeds and other vegetation from their property. Approximately 170 residents participated in the free event.



On Saturday, the drop-off was staffed by volunteers and city employees including Benicia Emergency Response Team (BERT) members Mike and Barbara Ungersma, Ann Zuerner, Clark Driggers, Angela Allberry, and Christopher Verreos. Sunday was staffed by Benicia Volunteer Firemen Inc. members including Tom Clausen, Dustin Anderson and Eric Williamson. City employees who organized and worked the weekend event were Fire Division Chief Nicolas Thomas, Public Works Maintenance Supervisors Drake Valentine and Chris Sorrentino, and Field Utilities and Streets personnel John Gant, Jeff Henning, Mike Ferrara and Jeremiah Rice. – *Fire Department*

**VOTER INFORMATION ON ELECTION CHANGES:** On April 16, the Benicia City Council adopted Ordinance No. 13-04 changing the date of the City's General Municipal Election from November odd-year to November even-year. On May 7, the Solano County Board of Supervisors approved the City's request to change the date of the general municipal elections.

Beginning November 2014, the City of Benicia General Municipal Election will be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years. The reasons for this change are:

- The November date will allow the City of Benicia to consolidate its election with the Statewide General Election which is held on the same date therefore resulting in a substantial cost savings.
- A majority of local governments in Solano County would share the same election date.
- The Council has determined that its goals of encouraging maximum voter turnout and participation will be promoted by changing the General Municipal Election date of the City to November of even-numbered years.



The next City of Benicia General Municipal Election will be held on November 4, 2014. The terms of office of current City Council members will be extended twelve months to coincide with November 2014 and 2016 general municipal elections and there will be no election in November of 2013 for City Council Members. – *City Attorney*

**BENICIA POLICE PROVIDE INTERNET SAFETY TRAINING:**

The Benicia Police Department has developed an internet safety class designed for Elementary and Middle School parents. Youth Services Detective Edward Criado and School Resource Officer Will Patterson presented the class for the first time on May 16 to parents of students at Matthew Turner Elementary School. The class is intended to provide parents with the latest information on how social media may impact their children. Special attention was given to smart phone apps and the latest social media



destinations that parents may not be aware. The intent of the class is to empower parents to know their "internet child" and enable them to properly supervise such activity.

The course was well received by the parents and the school faculty in attendance. This class will be taught again at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year with the goal being to present it to every elementary school and the Benicia Middle School. – *Police Department*



**WELCOME FOR NEW FIRE CHIEF:** Fire Chief Jim Lydon was sworn in at his badge pinning ceremony and reception on May 16 at Fire Station 11. Deborah Lydon had the honor of pinning on her husband's new badge. Chief Lydon joined Benicia Fire Department on April 15 after serving more than 32 years with the City of San Rafael Fire Departments. *Welcome Chief! – Fire Department*



**FIRE SAFETY TAUGHT AT TINY TOTS PRE-SCHOOL:** Captain Greg Petersen and his crew visited Tiny Tots Preschool class last week. During their visit the children learned about Fire Safety. Firefighter Adam taught them how to "Stop, Drop & Roll" and showed the children what he looks like in his fire protective gear. They learned about what to do in case of an emergency and when to call "911". Firefighter Ricardo demonstrated what their heart rate looks and sounds like on a heart monitor. All the children had the opportunity to go inside the Fire Engine and have a picture taken, as well. It was a day the pre-school children won't forget, a big THANK YOU to Captain Greg and his crew. – *Parks & Community Service*



**BENICIA PD PARTICIPATES IN DEA PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK:** Benicia Police Department participated in the “Prescription Drug Take Back” event held on Saturday, April 27 for the fifth time in three years. Once again, the event was a great success. During the four hour period, the Police Department had 223 people (205 Benicia residents/18 Vallejo residents) drop off a total of 370 pounds of unwanted/expired prescription drugs.

In comparison, last year the BPD had 115 Benicia residents/38 Vallejo residents, and took in 385 lbs. Local DEA Special Agent Peter Colichidas (Benicia Resident) stopped by to check on the event and was very pleased with the activity.

Benicia Police Volunteers who worked the event, Doc Uhlman, Dick Meyer, Julien England, Jay Colvin and Patti Baron, did a great job. – *Police Department*



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

- Lynne Parella's Studio -- 372 First Street, owner: Lynne Parella
- Spoiled Brat Fashion, dba Vanite - 374 First Street, owner: Haihang Guo
- NHT Audio (warehouse only for existing business) - 533 Stone Road, owner: Trascustic LLC
- Camari Henderson Design - 1350 Hayes Street Ste. C-4, owner: Camari Henderson
- Dollar Tree #5179 - 856 Southampton Road
- RPM Mortgage - 376 First Street AND 110 East D Street, Ste. C, owners; Rob and Tracey Hirt
- The Cottage Massage and Body Spa, dba Coffee Break Massage Company - 121 East F Street, owner: Cynthia Mulks
- Benicia Biker Barre LLC - 991 Lincoln Street, owners: Jasmine Powers and Lee Sutherland

- *Economic Development*





**SUMMER OPEN HOUSE AT THE BENICIA COMMUNITY CENTER:** On Friday, May 10, the Parks & Community Services Department held their first Summer Open House at the Community Center. The community was invited to stop by to see all of the wonderful programs, classes and camps offered this summer. There was excitement both indoors and outside on the lawn area filled with music, jump houses, games and sports (free to all). Inside, visitors could meet and greet instructors, enjoy a bag of popcorn and a movie, or watch a Mad Science show. Several hundred children, parents and community members stopped by to visit and learn about upcoming summer programs. Special thanks go to the Parks & Community Services Team who made the day so much fun! – *Parks & Community Services*

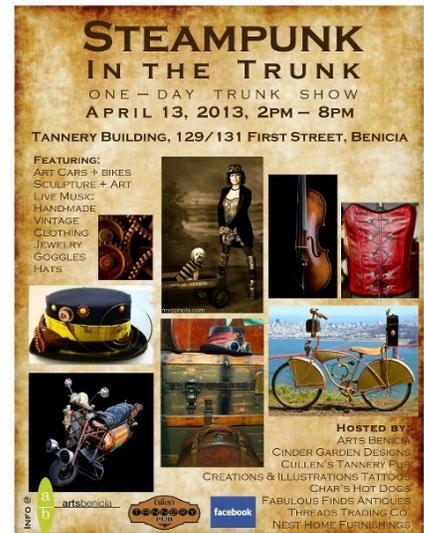
**SHOPPING AND MORE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE TANNERY:** historic Tannery building at 129 and 131 First Street are thrilled that all the Tannery's retail spaced are fully occupied. The only space not occupied is the former Shoreline Restaurant, which Tannery owner Joe Lopez is in the process of remodeling. The Tannery was even home to the recent popular Steampunk event.

Businesses in Benicia's

At the Tannery, you'll find:

- [Bill Parson's Gallery](#): art gallery and school of fine art
- [Charlie's Attic](#): vintage and collectibles store
- Char's Hot Dogs: hot dogs, hamburgers and a veggie selection
- [Creations & Illusions](#): art gallery and tattoo studio
- [Cullen's Tannery Pub](#): a steampunk-inspired pub, game bar and waterfront beer garden
- Fabulous Finds: antique and consignment store
- [Love & Hate Clothing Store](#): edgier clothing for men and women
- Napa Bella: women's fashion clothing, jewelry and bags
- [Nest](#): vintage and new home furnishings
- [Threads](#): hip n trendy resale clothing

– *Economic Development*



**BERT GOLDEN GUARDIAN EXERCISE:** First implemented by former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2004, Golden Guardian, California's Annual Statewide Exercise Series, has become the most comprehensive state-level exercise series program in the country. The goal of Golden Guardian is to exercise and assess emergency operation plans, policies, and procedures for all hazards/catastrophic incidents at the local, regional, and state levels.

The May 15 Golden Guardian's 2013 exercise simulated a 7.9 earthquake occurring in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Solano County Office of Emergency Services (OES), the exercise planner for Solano County, activated the Emergency Operations Center



(EOC) and began contacting local EOC's. The Benicia Emergency Response Team (BERT) and Benicia Fire Department opened Benicia's EOC. BERT staffed our Amateur Radio Operations Center and maintained communications with local HAM radio operators and the county EOC. BERT also exercised their volunteer recall system to verify availability and response readiness. – *Fire Department*

**FIELD RENOVATION AT COMMUNITY PARK:** The Parks & Community Service's Parks Division just completed a major turf renovation project on field #2 at Benicia Community Park. The worn areas were removed and new sod installed. The area was heavily aerated, over seeded, top-dressed, and then fertilized. The full results will be apparent in the next couple weeks. – *Parks & Community Services*



**BENICIA POLICE ATTEND SOLANO COUNTY PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL:**

On Wednesday, May 15, seventeen members from the Benicia Police Department attended the 2013 Solano County Peace Officer Memorial held at the Sheriff's Department in Fairfield. This event is held every year and pays tribute to those officers who have been killed in the line of duty in Solano County. This year, Chief Andrew Bidou was the guest speaker and Police Chaplain Jerry Pollard gave the Invocation. Benicia Police School Resource Officer Will Patterson stood on top of the memorial representing Benicia PD. This event was attended by all Solano County Law Enforcement agencies. Several family members of deceased officers were also in attendance.

Every officer killed in Solano County has his name engraved on a plaque at the memorial. Fortunately, no Benicia Police Officer has been killed in the line of duty. However, on December 5, 1973 Special Agent Supervisor Steven Armenta of the California Department of Justice Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement was shot during an undercover drug deal in Benicia. Tragically, on December 7, 1973 Agent Armenta succumbed to his injuries. He is the only law enforcement officer to die in the line of duty in the City of Benicia. – *Police Department*



**UPDATE FROM PUBLIC WORKS:** Take a look at what the Public Works Department was up to in April. Were they in your neighborhood?

**Maintenance – Streets:**

- **Paving-** 400 Labrador Lane, 900 West K Street, West 4th Street (86' Berm)
- **Weed Abatement-** East E Street parking lot perimeter, Rose Drive bike bridge approach
- **Storm Drain Cleanings-** 400 East O Street, 300 Baker Street, 300 Panorama Drive, Southampton Road at Panorama Drive, Hastings Drive at Joe Henderson Elementary School, 800 Rose Drive, 400 East L Street, 1500 East 5th Street, 500 West K Street at Storm Creek, 300 Military East, 300 West I Street.
- **Potholes-** Lake Herman Road (2), Adams Street (2), Park Road (1), East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street at East N Street (1).
- **Special Events-** BEF Run for Education, Farmers Market, BHS Car Show
- **Miscellaneous-** Tree Trimming- Park Road at Adams Street, West 5<sup>th</sup> Street at I Street, Signs & Legends- Military East at Grant Street, Type K Marker install Military at First Street, Curb Painting- First Street red curbs, Industrial Way red curbs, Lake Herman spillway graffiti removal, 110 East B Street gravel clean up, Trash Pick Up- Reservoir Road, 100 West F Street, Alley 300 East L Street, Lake Herman Road. Assisted BFD near East 2nd reservoir site.



**Maintenance – Sewer:**

- **Repairs-** Laterals- 818 Dorset, 821 Dorset, 350 West K Street. Main- Oak Road back to back install.
- **Customer Service Calls-** First Street at E Street, 100 West J Street, West 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 200 St. Augustine, 100 East F Street, 300 West K Street, 600 East I Street, 1800 Pacifica Court.
- **Closed Circuit Televising-** WWTP, West 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 100 West J Street, First Street at E Street, 600 East I Street.
- **Lift Station Cleanings-** Bayshore Road (Tire Shop, BI, Wharf), East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Park Road.
- **City-Wide Main Cleanings-** Service calls 596', Scheduled 5,382'

**Maintenance – Water:**

- 11 total calls, 1 main leak, 5 service leaks- 110' replaced, 4 days of water system flushing, 3 days with 5 crew members meter reading, daily services and USA's

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects:**

- Staff recently finished the replacement of all of the sample lines that are used in the disinfection system. This was a large undertaking and took almost a month to finish. Along with changing the lines there was also some pump replacement and new electrical wires pulled for the new pumps. Staff also started the rehabilitation of the Odor Scrubber system. Doing these projects in house saved the City tens of thousands of dollars.

**WWTP Plant Maintenance:**

- Staff performed 60 preventive maintenance task and 6 corrective maintenance task.

### WWTP Plant Performance:

- The Plant processed 79.6 million gallons of raw wastewater with no Permit exceedances.

### Laboratory:

- In the month of April, the Laboratory Technicians analyzed samples for the drinking water and wastewater treatment plants. In total, 389 samples were entered in the laboratory database, many of which have multiple tests run on an individual sample. The monthly bioassay, a 96-hour survival test of minnows in treated wastewater, resulted in a 100% survival rate. All compliance reports were submitted on time. The wastewater treatment laboratory was inspected April 23, and only two deficiencies were found by state inspectors.
- The Water Quality Technician completed weekly drinking water distribution system monitoring, monthly Lake Herman monitoring and quarterly distribution system monitoring, all of which yielded normal results. The Wastewater Technician inspected businesses and collected samples from industrial dischargers.



- Public Works

### THE AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION HONORS PUBLIC SAFETY DISASTER RESPONDERS: On Saturday, May 18, the American Automobile Association honored



Benicia and Vallejo's public safety disaster responders at their facility on Admiral Callaghan Lane in Vallejo. Organized and hosted by AAA's Business Manager, Maria Dellanno, recognition was given to BERT, BARC, ALERT (Vallejo's CERT team) and Benicia Volunteer Fire.

Attendees from the Benicia Fire Department

included Fire Chief Jim Lydon, Division Chief Nick Thomas, Division Chief Josh Chadwick, BERT Chief Larry Whitney, Benicia Volunteers Mike White and Tom Clausen, American Red Cross' Leslie Kvasnicka, Vallejo Fire Department Captain Morty Culverwell, and Benicia Police Volunteer Art Mayoff. Benicia was well represented by volunteers and citizens in the audience.



The gathering ended with the presentation of a \$5,000 check with the understanding that it is to be shared with BARC, BERT, ALERT, and Volunteer Fire. Thank you to AAA for their encouragement, recognition and generous financial support. – 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**

**[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**

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