



## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

~~~  
JUNE 9, 2014

For additional information on any of the items in this report, please see Contact List at the end of this report.

-----

**W**ATER CONSERVATION TIPS FOR POOL OWNERS: Many people assume pools waste water, but that's just not true. Because pools often replace traditional lawns, which are very water intensive, every pool actually saves thousands of gallons of water per year. Did you know that pools and surrounding decks use less than half the water of an irrigated lawn? Yet even with those water savings, there are steps pool owners can take this summer to save even more water. Here are a few tips to keep your pool a water saver this summer:



- Install a pool cover to reduce water evaporation by as much as 90%
- Shut off waterfalls, fountains, and other water features to reduce water loss and evaporation
- Check the pool for leaks. Contact your pool service professional for guidance
- Minimize splashing or lower the pools water level to reduce "splashout"
- Plug the overflow line when the pool is in use
- Replace sand and DE filters with cartridge filters that do not require backwashing
- Keep your pool clean to reduce frequency of backwashing
- If your pool is heated, reduce the water temperature to reduce evaporation

- *Public Works*



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

**BOND REFINANCE:** City of Benicia staff are working on a refinancing of the bonds for the McAllister Area Assessment District.

Briefly, the City Council, on October 5, 2004 adopted Resolution No. 04-157 authorizing the issuance of the Benicia McAllister Area Assessment District Limited Obligation Improvement Bonds in the amount of \$11,700,000. The bonds were issued at an interest rate ranging from 2.25 percent to 5.9 percent with a term of 25 years and a final maturity date of September 30, 2030. The proceeds of the bonds were used to fund the construction of public improvements within the assessment district boundaries.

The outstanding principal on the McAllister Assessment District bonds is \$8,570,000. The City currently has the opportunity to refinance the outstanding bonds at a lower interest rate (approximately 3.75 percent) which is projected to result in debt service savings of approximately \$112,000 per year based upon current interest rates. Over the

remaining sixteen year term of the bonds, this savings will amount to approximately \$1.6 million. As the debt service on the McAllister bonds is paid entirely by the property owners within the assessment district, each of the 336 property owners would realize a savings of approximately \$330 per year. It is anticipated that this item will be presented to the City Council on June 3 with a resolution of intention to issue the refunding bonds and appointing a financial advisor and bond counsel.

Interim Finance Director [Brenda Olwin](#) can be reached at 707.746.4225 with any questions. – *City Manager*



**HOT SUMMER / COOL MOVIES:** Benicia Public Library is showing great classic movies from the 30s, 40s, 50s, and 60s this summer! Come and enjoy great films on the Library's big screen. The movies are free and so is the popcorn.

The next movie is **Friday, June 13** at 6:30 PM. Because of advertising limitations, we can only give hints to the June movie:

- Released in 1953
- Stars Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor and Debbie Reynolds
- Singing and precipitation feature heavily in this film!

For more information on regular events at the Library, [click here](#). – *Library*



## BENICIA POLICE CITIZEN'S ACADEMY CLASS #5 GRADUATES: On May 29, the Benicia

Police Department Citizen's Academy Class #5 held their graduation ceremonies at the City Council Chambers. Sixteen students received their certificates of completion, a class photo, a department challenge coin, class video and department coffee mug.



The 5<sup>th</sup> session began on April 3. After eleven sessions and approximately twenty-two topics of instruction including a day at the police range and a day of scenarios, the students were able to complete the course. Class #5 included two BHS seniors, college students, local business owners, teachers, retirees, and other professionals wanting to see how the police department operates. Even our own Family Resource Center part-time employee Cathy Shea attended to learn about things at the Department that she did not know.

The graduation was attended by family and friends and several city officials, including members of the Benicia Police Department. Mayor Patterson, Councilmember Hughes and Councilmember Schwartzman (Citizen Academy Class #4 alumni) attended the event. Mayor Patterson thanked the students for their time and support and encouraged them to think about becoming volunteers with the City of Benicia. Chief Bidou, Lt. Frank Hartig, Officer Mark Menesini and Officer Fred Ayala presented the students with their certificates and other items.

If you are interested or know somebody who is interested in attending Citizen's Academy Class #6, please contact [Lt. Frank Hartig](#) or [Officer Mark Menesini](#) at the Benicia Police Department or call 707.745.3412. Class #6 is tentatively scheduled to begin in early April 2015. – *Police Department*



**SUNSET CELEBRATION WEEKEND:** For the fourth year in a row, City of Benicia staff and community volunteers participated in *Sunset Magazine's* Sunset Celebration Weekend at Sunset's headquarters in Menlo Park on Saturday and Sunday, May 31 and June 1. Described as Sunset Magazine come to life, the outdoor weekend features cooking demonstrations by celebrity chefs, test gardens and gardening info, wine tasting, and a travel exhibition area where the Visit Benicia booth was located.



Staffing the booth were Economic Development staff Mario Giuliani and Teri Davena along with volunteers Belinda & Steve Smith, Deputy City Clerk Kate Gibbs, Contract Staff Karen Majors, Jack Wolf of Wolf Communications, Ellen Kolowich, Ann & David Lindsay, Mike & Kris Caplin, Elizabeth d'Huarte, and Ken Davena.



Staff was able to gather donations from Lindsay Art Glass for a hand-blown bowl and from Benicia merchants (Studio 41, The Steffen Collection, Christina S Fashion Destination, Romancing the Home, Benicia Main Street, Bookshop Benicia, Lucca Bar & Grill, ABC Music, Benicia Historical Society, Joanne Corbaley, and Not Just Baskets) for items for a gift basket worth more than \$600!

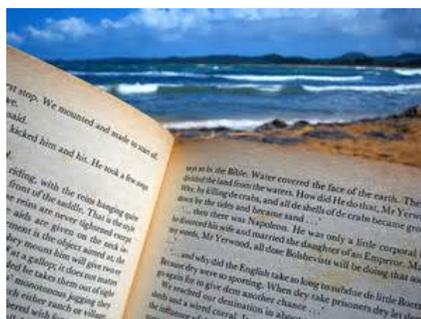


Staff and volunteers in the Visit Benicia booth handed out literature and encouraging Sunset visitors to enter the drawing for either the basket or bowl. More than 500 entries were received during the weekend giving valuable information for marketing! The winners were from Oakland and from Palo

Alto and will be making the trip to Benicia to claim their prize.

Many downtown businesses have reported visitors/shoppers who saw the booth at Sunset and decided to visit Benicia, some as soon as the next day! – *Economic Development*

**SUMMER READING BOOK TALK:** Looking for a good summer read? Ron Shoop of Randon House will be at the Benicia Public Library on **Wednesday, June 11** at 7:00 PM to talk about books for summer reading.



The hour-long discussion will focus on recently published and upcoming books that may have special appeal for summer reading. Bookshop Benicia will be on hand with books to purchase. Everyone attending will be eligible to win a free bag of books. - *Library*

**CITY STAFF SUPPORT KIWANIS FUNDRAISER:** Benicia Kiwanis Club held their annual golf tournament on May 22 raising more than \$11,000. The tournament raises funds that are donated to Benicia Unified School District, scholarships for Benicia High and Liberty High students, the Benicia High Every 15 Minute Program, placing AEDs at public schools, the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, and International Kiwanis Eliminate Project (worldwide Tetanus).



Four of the 21 competing teams were made up of City of Benicia employees. Benicia PD Team 1 (Kent Higgenbotham, Mike Green, Roger Yokoi, & Drake Valentine) took third place with a score of 61. Scoring 64 was BPD Team 2 made up of Sam Petersen, James Laughter Kevin Barreto and Aldo Serano.

Following close behind was the Benicia Fire Department team (Dave Calkins, Jeff Toynbee, Jason Fein & an unnamed substitute for Alan Bates) with a score of 65.



Rounding out the City of Benicia teams at 71 was the City Attorney Team made up of Heather McLaughlin, Naveed Ashraf, Mario Giuliani and Alex Porteshawver.



For information on forming a team for next year's competition, contact [Nick Thomas](#) at Benicia Fire Department, 707.746.4275. – *Fire Department*

**TEAM BIKE CHALLENGE:** Five city employees joined the Team Bike Challenge, a month-long bike commuting challenge. Over 700 teams and 3,400 individuals from across the nine county Bay Area joined the challenge, logging over 570,000 miles commuting to work by bike. The 'Benicia Bikers' team finished in the middle of the pack across the full competition, but managed to move up to third place in Solano County this year. Scott Rovanpera led the way, logging 195 miles on 25 commuting trips throughout the month of May. Colleen Williams also had a strong showing, with 29 bike commuting trips during the month of May. We hope to continue to grow the Benicia team in 2015.

Some city staff are now taking part in the Green Commute Challenge, organized by 511. Check out <http://rideshare.511.org/rewards/current.aspx> if you'd like to find more information or sign up.



Increased bicycling will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improve air quality, and help the City meet its GHG reduction goals called out in the Climate Action Plan. For more information visit [SustainableBenicia.org](http://SustainableBenicia.org). – *Community Development*

**BENICIA AWARDS ITS TEAM (B.A.I.T.):** On May 29, Assistant City Manager Anne Cardwell presented members of the City of Benicia IT Team with BAIT awards for their efforts during the time the City did not have an IT Manager. Sandy Ayala, Greg Henry and Dave Bosse were selected for the BAIT award for their job performance during this critical time.

Sandy, who handles IT issues for the Police Department, assisted with City IT issues well beyond her normal workload in order to keep the critical functions of IT running. During this time she also took the lead on replacing the city's cell phones.



During this same time, Greg Henry took on his role as a part-time IT Technician and assisted the division in handling day-to-day requests as well as assisting with key projects. This was in addition to the work he was also doing for both the City Attorney and Finance Department.

Dave Bosse stepped up during this time and kept the critical functions of IT running. He did a great job of handling the day-to-day projects, while also keeping key IT projects moving along. He worked very hard to remain responsive to the requests of departments and provide excellent customer service, despite the challenging work load. He is known for his ability to come up with solutions with minimal resources. Thanks go to Sandy, Greg and Dave for a job well done. – *City Manager's Office*

**BENEFITS OF NEW TECHNOLOGY:** As was reported in a recent City Manager's Report, the Benicia Fire Department has deployed new cardiac monitors. These devices provide our paramedics with some of the latest technology available for cardiac care.



Most recently, we had an incident that highlighted one of the features that these devices have that we did not have on our older monitors. The crews arrived at a scene to find a patient in significant medical distress. By using the Carbon Dioxide monitoring capabilities available on the units, personnel were able to more effectively manage the care of the patient and measure the success of their treatment. We believe this is just one of many successes that we will see with the use of this new equipment. Our personnel are very appreciative of having these new tools

to more effectively provide emergency medical care to the community. – *Fire Department*

**FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING:** Fire Department personnel work to develop and maintain their skills on a regular basis.



The scope of their training ranges from reviewing technical information to the performance of various skills in the field. Since the emergencies we respond to vary in nature, firefighting personnel are trained to address fires, medical emergencies, hazardous materials incidents, and technical rescues. Each of these types of incidents requires specialized skills that personnel must develop and maintain. In

order to do this, the department's expectation is that each firefighter completes 15-20 hours of training per month. – *Fire Department*



**BENICIA YOUTH COMMISSION UPDATE:** Another term of Benicia Youth Commission



(BYC) culminated in May with commissioner awards, volunteering at the Community Center Open House, and placing flags at the City Cemetery. BYC Advisors Ashley Howe of the Parks & Community Services Department and Sam Peterson of the Police Department highlighted commissioner awards and recognized graduating seniors.

Commissioners voted and honored two members with awards: Commission Chair, Sabrina Corley as "Totally BYC" and Jaela Evangelista as "Rookie of the Year". "Totally BYC" represents an individual that embodies the leadership and

philanthropy BYC stands for and is the first person thought of when BYC is mentioned. "Rookie of the Year" is a new member of the commission who immerses themselves in BYC events, community service, and actively participates in meetings.

We wish our graduating seniors success and happiness: Gabriela Abbas, Ambreana Burciaga, Rachel Cordoza, Sabrina Corley, Caroline Cullen, Jaela Evangelista, Alex Holguin, James Mone, Haley Rodekohr, Jenna Rogenski, Baylee Rowley, Christine Thatcher, Alex Wardlow and Emily Wolfe. They were given burgundy BYC chords to wear at graduation. Congratulations!

Applications for the 2014-15 Benicia Youth Commission are available at the Community Center and are due **August 15**. Contact [Ashley Howe](#) for more information at 707.746.4285. – *Parks & Community Services*

**LIBRARY NEWS:** The Benicia Public Library is pleased to announce the following new monthly programs:

- **20-Something Book Club:** First Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 PM. Are you between the ages of 18 and 29 and interested in books? Come to the 20-Something Book Club. This month we are discussing "The Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka. Ask for a copy of the book at the Public Service Desk.
- **Video Game Afternoons:** Mondays and Tuesdays for the Summer, 2:30-4:30 PM for kids 8 and up. Come in and play XBox 360, Wii or Playstation with others who like to play games.
- **Tails N' Tales:** Wednesdays for the Summer at 2:30 PM for kids going into 1st–5th grades. Participants will have a chance to read to a dog! The list for each Wednesday opens at 2:00 PM. Up to seven children can read to the dog on a given day; if no one comes for ten minutes, the dog goes home.
- **Lego Club:** Wednesdays for the Summer, 4:00-5:00 PM for ages 5-12. Come and build.



- Library

**SUMMER OPEN HOUSE:** The Parks and Community Services Department held an Open House for the public at the Community Center on May 16. Members of the community were invited to spend the afternoon meeting instructors, participating in fun activities and learning about summer programs. The Multi-purpose room was set up with carnival games for the kids and instructors from the Northern California Judo Club gave demonstrations. There was also a movie room for kids with free popcorn and Play Well Teknologies set up a Lego room, which was a big hit. "Parks Make Life Better" themed gift baskets and \$25 Parks and Community Services gift certificates were raffled off at the end of the event. – *Parks & Community Services*



**OFF ROAD DRIVING:** Each year, Benicia Fire personnel participate in an off-road driving program. This program is taught by departmental staff that has been through an outside train-the-trainer course. The purpose of this training is to enhance the skills of our personnel when they are operating firefighting vehicles in off-road situations during vegetation fires. Understanding the limitations of the vehicles and developing the necessary confidence to effectively operate a vehicle under these conditions are key factors associated with this training program.



The success of the program has increased over the years due to support from various organizations. The Valero Refinery has provided us with the opportunity to use their property in order to develop the necessary obstacles for the training. Benicia Public Works staff has also



supported the training by providing the equipment and personnel necessary to construct the obstacles. The scope of the program has also grown to not only include Benicia and Valero fire personnel, but



over the last two years has included personnel from Vallejo Fire, as well. – *Fire Department*

## **ELECTION THEMED COLORING CONTEST RECOGNIZES LAW DAY:**

The Benicia City Attorney's Office sponsored its first annual Law Day Coloring Contest to celebrate the event and our freedom to vote. The City Attorney invited artists of all ages and skill levels to join the celebration by creating works of art with a voting and election theme. With this year's elections, the contest served as the City's local reminder to celebrate the American heritage of liberty, justice and equality and to vote at the upcoming election because "every vote matters". Election Day marked the closing of the contest and three winners have been chosen.



Congratulations to Bee Hartmann, age 8, Morgan Fry, age 9, and an anonymous submitter, the winners of this year's Law Day Coloring Contest! The City Attorney's Office will be awarding prizes to the winners in the coming weeks and implore the anonymous submitter to come forward to claim a prize.

**LAW DAY (CON'T):** Law Day is an annual event, which was originally conceived in 1957 when American Bar Association President Charles Rhynes envisioned a special national day to mark our commitment to the rule of law. The following year, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established the first Law Day. Law Day was made official in 1961 when Congress issued a joint resolution designating May 1 as the official date for celebrating Law Day.

This year's theme is "American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters." As we approach the 50th anniversaries of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the 2014 Law Day theme calls on every American to reflect on the importance of a citizen's right to vote and the challenges we still face in ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to participate in our democracy.



At the April 29 City Council meeting, Mayor Patterson proclaimed May 1, 2014 as Law Day. In recognition of the day, the Mayor presented the proclamation to Carol Langford, a distinguished attorney, active community member, and Vice Chair of the Open Government Commission. – *City Attorney's Office*

**FIRE SAFETY AT TINY TOTS PRE-SCHOOL:** Benicia Fire Captain Todd Matthews and his crew visited Tiny Tots Preschool class in late May. During their visit the children learned about Fire Safety and were taught how to "Stop, Drop & Roll". The crew also showed the children what they look like in the fire protective gear, and what types of equipment are carried in the fire engine. They learned about what to do in case of an emergency and when to call 911. All the children had the opportunity to go inside the Fire Engine and have their picture taken. They learned a lot of valuable safety information and had a lot of fun. Thanks to the Benicia Fire Department. – *Parks & Community Services*



## **BENICIA POLICE ATTEND MEMORIAL SERVICE:** On May 21, members from



the Benicia Police Department attended the 2014 Solano County Peace Officer's Memorial Service in front of the Solano County Sheriff's Department. Retired Benicia PD Captain Steve Mortensen was the Master of Ceremonies. Both the Solano County Sheriff's Department and Vallejo Police Department's Honor Guard took part in the ceremony. Corporal Gregg Rouse represented Benicia PD by standing on the Wall of Honor.



Since June 20, 1892, there have been 18 Law Enforcement Heroes killed in the line of duty protecting the citizens of Solano County. The last officer to be enshrined was Vallejo PD Officer James Capoot, who was killed in the City of Vallejo on November 17, 2011.

Although there has never been a Benicia Police Officer killed in the line of duty, on December 5, 1973, California Department of Justice Field Supervisor Steven L. Armenta of the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement's San Francisco Office was involved in an undercover purchase of cocaine at the old Food Fair Supermarket in the City of Benicia. This is now the sight of the Benicia Fitness Center at 1150 West 7th Street. Immediately following the purchase, he and other agents attempted to arrest the suspects. One of the suspects shot and wounded Field Supervisor Armenta. Armenta was able to shoot one of the suspects and all three were eventually captured several hours later in the area that is now Willow Glen Park behind Taco Bell. Field Supervisor Steven L. Armenta succumbed to his injuries and died on December 7, 1973 in a Sacramento hospital.



Hanging in a hallway of the Benicia Police Department is a plaque dedicated to Field Supervisor Steven Armenta. His name is also engraved on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D.C. Field and he has star on the Solano County Peace Officer's Memorial. There are several retired Benicia PD Officers who worked with Armenta and some of them were present during that fateful event on December 5, 1973. – *Police Department*



**RELAY FOR LIFE IS COMING:** City of Benicia employees are forming a team for the 2014 Relay for Life event on **August 16-17** at the Benicia High School field. Relay for Life is the annual fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. Deputy City Clerk Kate Gibbs is encouraging employees to band together as coworkers and friends and work side-by-side to raise money to support those fighting cancer and celebrate our City of Benicia survivors.

Join by going to the [City of Benicia Employees webpage](#) and encourage friends and family to join also, to help get donations, volunteer to work at the team booth and participate in events leading up to relay. For more information, contact [Kate Gibbs](#) at 707.746.4200. – *City Clerk*

~~~

#### 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**