

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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JUNE 23, 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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**FIREWORKS ARE DANGEROUS – ALL PRIVATE FIREWORKS BANNED IN BENICIA:** Due to current drought conditions, this year could prove to be quite challenging throughout California with respect to fires caused by the use of fireworks. With this in mind, we are reminding everyone of the hazards associated with fireworks. Their use is responsible each year for numerous fires and injuries.



According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) thousands of people are injured by fireworks during the period around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The following information is based on a study conducted by the CPSC in 2012:

- On average 200 people per day were treated in emergency rooms for fireworks related injuries during the period around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- Illegal or homemade fireworks were involved in 6 deaths

[Click here](#) for more information from the CPSC study.

Although everyone wants to participate in the celebration of our nation's independence, we are reminding everyone that **the personal use of fireworks in Benicia is prohibited**. We encourage everyone to enjoy a safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July by attending the public fireworks display located at the foot of First Street and visible wherever a waterfront view is available. – *Fire Department*

**CITY HALL CLOSURE:** Please note that City Hall, the Library and Community Center will be closed on Friday, July 4 for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Requests for emergency water and sewer service may be made at the Benicia Police Department, 200 East L Street or 707.745.3412. – *City Manager's Office*

**H**OW LONG DO I NEED TO WATER? One of the easiest ways to save water is to make sure that you are not overwatering your lawn and plants. Most of us water more than we need to whether for irrigation or “run through the sprinklers” playtime. Watering for fewer days for the appropriate amount of time will give you healthier plants and use less water. Here are some general guidelines on how to make sure that you are watering the correct amount:



- Irrigation for lawn areas can be kept to three days in the summer with “run and soak” cycling of an irrigation station. For example, the irrigation program for sunny lawn areas can have three start times that run for three minutes each with 30-60 minutes between each run time. This allows for water to soak into the soil instead of running off into the street. Be aware that sun exposure and slope of the lawn area are factors to consider in calculating the amount of time the irrigation system should run. Shaded lawn does not need as much water.
- Mature shrubs can usually be limited to watering two days a week in the summer. Be aware that sun exposure and slope of the landscape areas are factors to consider in calculating the amount of time the water runs. Water in cycles (e.g. 5 minutes of run time with 30 to 60 minutes in between cycles) Watering with this technique encourages deep rooting by water percolating deeper into the soil for shrubs and trees. Check the irrigation cycle to ensure that water does not result in runoff to the street.
- Once the root system is strong and deep enough, the plants will withstand more periods of no irrigation, particularly when the day length is shortened and the soil temperatures are cooler in the fall.
- Apply 2 to 3 inches of mulch on any bare soil to keep soil temperatures cooler and help reduce the evaporation of moisture from the soil.

To learn about turf removal and smart irrigation controller rebates please go to [www.beniciasaveswater.org](http://www.beniciasaveswater.org). – *Public Works*

**B**USINESS TRAINING HERE ON FRIDAY: Solano Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is hosting a training session at the City Hall Commission Room, 250 East L Street on **Friday, June 27**, 1:00-3:00 PM. [Getting Publicity for your Business](#) will provide information on the difference between PR and marketing, using social media, tip on developing story ideas, developing a PR plan, and hiring a PR professional. The fee is \$30. [Click here](#) to register online or call 707.864.3382 for more information. – *Economic Development*



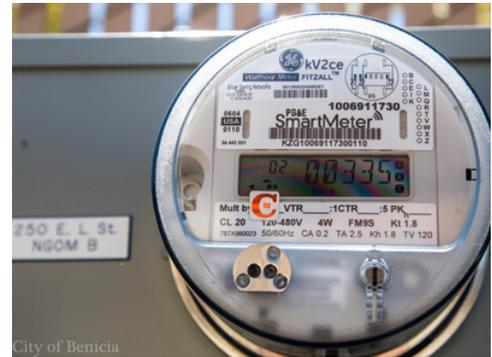
## **BENICIA UNVEILS STATE-OF-THE-ART ELECTRIC VEHICLE FAST CHARGING STATION:** The City of Benicia unveiled a newly installed DC Fast Electric Vehicle



Charging Station (DCFC) and battery storage tower last Wednesday in the parking lot behind City Hall. The “EV Pump” fast charger and solar-integrated battery storage system was designed by San Francisco-based Growing Energy Labs, Inc. (Geli) and funded with a \$79,200 California Energy Commission grant administered jointly by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and EV Communities Alliance. The project also received the generous support of the Sara and Evan Williams Foundation, and was implemented by a consortium of project partners including Growing Energy Labs Inc. (Geli), Bass Electric, CODA Energy, BTC Power, Energy Vault, McCalmont Engineering, and Ideal Power.

The station is open to the public and is available for use by anyone with an electric vehicle during City Hall business hours (8:00 AM-6:00 PM) on a first-come, first-serve basis. Charging costs are based on how much energy is used and at what time of day it is used and limited to one-hour per charging session. Most cars can get a full charge in 20-30 minutes.

Controlled by the Geli EOS (Energy Operating System), the charger has the capability to use energy generated from City Hall solar panels or to draw stored solar energy from the CODA Energy Tower. The “EVPump” station is equipped with the two standard connectors now in the marketplace, the CHADeMO connector used by most EVs today, and the new SAE “Combo” connector used by some American and German brands. The Benicia Fast Charger is likely the first dual-standard; battery backed charging station in the United States.



For more information, contact [Alex Porteshawver](mailto:Alex.Porteshawver@cityofbenicia.org) at 707.746.4276 or visit [www.SustainableBenicia.org](http://www.SustainableBenicia.org) and click on “Electric Vehicle Charging.” – *Community Development*

**UPDATE ON INDUSTRIAL PARK:** Brian Slocum, Industrial Broker and Vice President of CBRE-Walnut Creek, announced the lease of 27,000 square feet of warehouse/office space at 4601 Park Road in the Benicia Industrial Park to The Lucky Clover Trading Company. Lucky Clover is a leading provider and E retailer of decorative baskets and related items selling wholesale to the public with over



30 years in business. Located on East Second Street, we are happy to see Lucky Clover expand their operations here in Benicia to Park Road. [Click here](#) to see their line of products for the home. – *Economic Development*

# SUMMER LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP: California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS) Summer Leadership Workshop "Step into the Spotlight" themed training was hosted at the Community Center on Saturday, June 7.

**STEP INTO THE SPOTLIGHT SESSION SCHEDULE**

|                   |                                               |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 9:30 - 10:05am    | Registration/Check in                         |
| 10:05am - 10:50am | Keynote Speaker                               |
| 10:55am - 11:40am | Session 1                                     |
| Outside:          | Large Group Games                             |
| MP Room:          | Back Pocket Games                             |
| Room 1:           | Mandated Reporting                            |
| Room 2A/B:        | Your success toolbox                          |
| Room 3:           | The Parent Perspective                        |
| Arts & Crafts:    | Take your snack to the next level             |
| Kids K:           | Crazy Cool Crafts with Karla                  |
| Amphitheater:     | Fanatic Sports Remix                          |
| 11:45am - 12:35pm | Session 2                                     |
| Outside:          | Large Group Games                             |
| MP Room:          | Back Pocket Games                             |
| Room 1:           | Mandated Reporting                            |
| Room 2A/B:        | What YOU Can Do to Prevent Bullying           |
| Arts & Crafts:    | Take Your Snack to the Next Level             |
| Kids K:           | Crazy Cool Crafts with Karla                  |
| Room K2:          | Staying Cool at the Pool...with your Campers! |
| Amphitheater:     | Fanatic Sports Remix                          |
| 12:35pm - 1:15pm  | Lunch                                         |
| 1:15pm - 1:35pm   | Song Fest                                     |
| 1:45pm - 2:30pm   | Session 3                                     |
| MP Room:          | Games to Keep Campers Engaged                 |
| Room 1:           | Camp Director's Roundtable                    |
| Room 2A/B:        | The 3 C's of Camp                             |
| Room 3:           | Camp Theme Roundtable                         |
| Arts & Crafts:    | Crafts on a Budget                            |
| Kids K:           | Understanding your Campers                    |
| Room K2:          | Staying Cool at the Pool...with your Campers! |
| Amphitheater:     | Fanatic Sports Remix                          |
| 2:35pm - 3:20pm   | Session 4                                     |
| Outside:          | Ice Breakers! Help Unfreeze Shy Campers!      |
| MP Room:          | Games to Keep Campers Engaged                 |
| Room 1:           | Camp Director's Roundtable                    |
| Room 2A/B:        | The 3 C's of Camp                             |
| Room 3:           | Camp Theme Roundtable                         |
| Arts & Crafts:    | Crafts on a Budget                            |
| Amphitheater:     | Fanatic Sports Remix                          |
| 3:25pm - 4:00pm   | Wrap up and Raffle                            |

The daylong training was attended by over 200 part-time recreation staff from more than 22 agencies. They had eight educational topics to choose from during four sessions, plus a large group song fest after the catered lunch from Napoli Pizza. Topics ranged from "Large Group Games", "Crazy Cool Crafts", and "Fanatic Sports Remix" to "The Parent Perspective", "Mandated Reporting", and "What You Can Do to Prevent Bullying".



It was a successful day and staff hopes to be selected to host a future event. - Parks & Community Services

## SISTER CITY VISIT SCHEDULED IN JULY: A delegation from Benicia's Sister City, Tula Hidalgo Mexico, will be making a visit to Benicia from July 2-7. Members of the Benicia-Tula Sister City organization have several activities planned during their visit starting with a welcome reception at 12:30 PM in the Commission Room at City Hall where the visitors will be greeted by local dignitaries and meet their host families.

Additional activities during their visit include a trip to San Francisco and tour of Recology, and tours of Valero Benicia Refinery, the Port of Benicia, and Benicia's historic sites. They will be participating in the Torchlight parade and Benicia's 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities where they will receive presentations of soccer uniforms, fire equipment, and computers. They will also attend a Friendship Breakfast at St. Paul's Church, visit Green Valley and Wooden Valley wineries, and spend a day with their host families. The visit will wrap up with a dinner hosted by Valero Benicia Refinery.



During their visit the Toltek statue, a long-ago gift from our Sister City; will be on display in front of City Hall. The statue is a replica of one of the "Telamons of Tula" Toltek statues at the [Tula Archaeological Ruins](#). - City Manager's Office

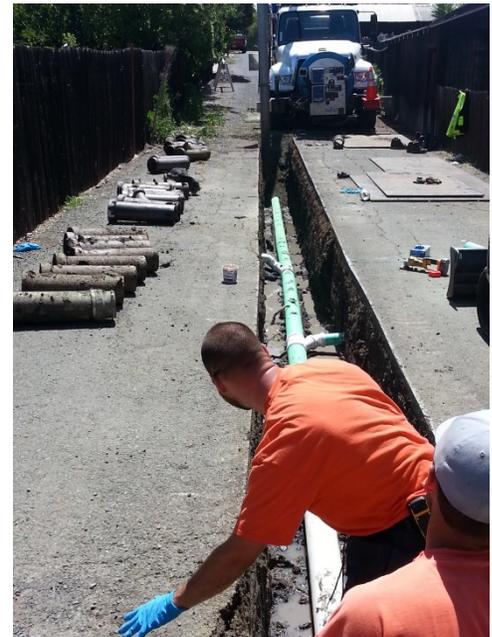
**UPDATE FROM PUBLIC WORKS:** Take a look at what the Public Works Department has been up to in May. Were they in your neighborhood?

**Maintenance Streets:**

- **Paving**– Skim patch 1208 Church Street and 801 West K Street, pave water patches on Tyler & Jackson and 450 East K Street
- **Patch Paving**– 280 West J Street and 100 blk Panorama
- **Weed Abatement**– Military West and East 2nd Street
- **Painting**– Repaint parking stalls at City Corporation Yard and 130 West F Street
- **Tree Trimming**– West side of East 2nd Street
- **Trash Pick Up & Wash Down**– Bus stop at East 3rd Street, pedestrian tunnel under Highway 780
- **Special Events**– Farmers Market sand barricades

**Maintenance Sewer:**

- **Customer Service Calls**– 100 La Prenda Avenue, 100 El Bonita Way, 1600 Bayview Circle, 1100 West L Street, 200 West G Street, 100 Wingfield Way, Dartmouth Place, 100 East L Street, O'Hare Drive, 100 East N Street, 700 East J Street
- **Lift Station Cleanings**– Park Road, Bayshore Road, Benicia Industries, 600 East 5th Street, 2400 East 2nd Street, Carlisle Way
- **Repairs and Improvements**– Riverhill Drive lateral repair, O'Hare Drive main replacement, West L Street new manhole installation
- **Closed Circuit Line Televising**– El Bonito, Bayview Circle, West G Street, Riverhill Drive, O'Hare Drive, East N Street
- **City Wide Line Cleanings**– Service Calls 273', Scheduled 7,150



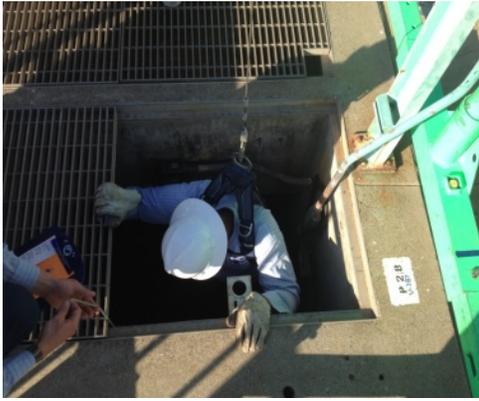
**Maintenance Water:**

- 2 main leaks, 5 service lines replaced, meter reading on May 12, 1 pressure check and 9 after-hour calls for water leaks.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects:** In the month of May staff started a project which will run into June and some annuals were performed.



- Collections did a project last month that redesigned a problem with the Vac Con dumping station. This has been an ongoing problem for some time and now with the improved design it should be all clear from here on out. Big thanks from the Wastewater staff go out to the Collection crew.



- Pictures show staff doing their annual confined space entry safety program exercise.



- Annual service was also performed on the Plant's stand-by generator.
- Staff has started working on a drainage project for an ongoing problem. Staff is investigating ways to improve and eliminate the problem.

- Staff has installed our new hood vacuum for welding fumes. This was a safety issue for some time and now has been corrected with this installation.



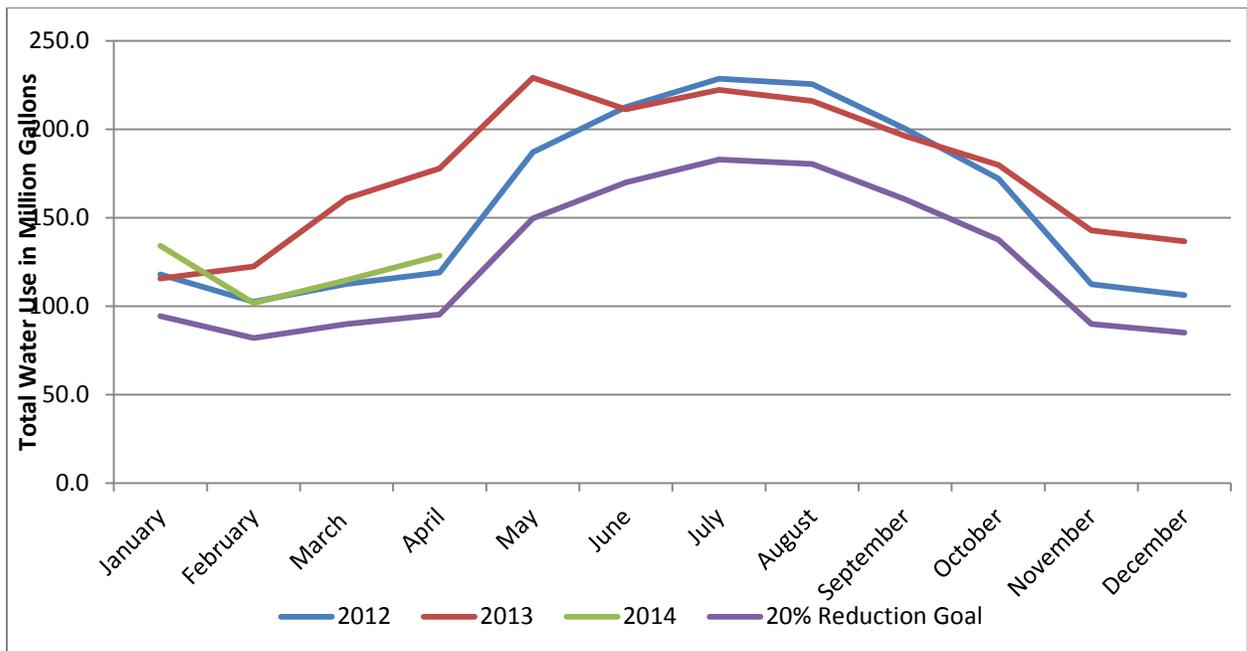
**Wastewater Treatment Plant Maintenance:**

- Staff performed forty-three preventive maintenance tasks as well as closing out four corrective maintenance work orders

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Performance:**

- The Plant processed 76.1 million gallons of raw wastewater with no Permit exceedances
- Nutrient pollution removal; BOD = 98.3% TSS = 98.4%

**Water Usage:** Below 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*

**ART GALLERY SHOW APPLICATIONS:** The Benicia Public Library's Art Gallery Committee is now accepting applications to show art next year in the [Marilyn Citron O'Rourke Art Gallery](#). To enter a project for consideration for 2015 [download the application and guidelines](#) or pick up the form at the Library. **September 5** is the deadline to turn in applications. – *Library*



## COLUMBUS PARKWAY AND BENICIA ROAD IMPROVEMENTS: If you've noticed



construction on Columbus Parkway at Benicia Road, we have an update for you courtesy of the City of Vallejo. As part of the Waterstone Development of 434 new homes off of Columbus Parkway, contractors are now working on several improvements, including creating a second storm water management pond on Benicia Road to accommodate increased rainfall runoff caused by building the new homes. The project will also include adding sidewalks and widening portions of the road on both Benicia Road and Columbus

Parkway, moving several overhead power lines underground, and installing a traffic signal intersection.

While the work appears to be in the City of Benicia jurisdiction, Benicia's city limits end just east of Benicia Road. The project, expected to be completed in August, is in the jurisdiction of the [City of Vallejo Engineering Division](#). For more information, call 707.648.5251. – *City Manager's Office*

**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:

- **Dollar Plus** — 2012 Columbus Parkway, owners: Suranga Edirisooriya and Dana Guevara
- **Grace Garden** (formerly Grand China) — 718 First Street, owners: Peter and Joe Fong
- **WetXamples** — 860 Teal Drive, owner: Brian Lovely
- **Wendy Warrick Photography** — 942 Tyler Street, Studio G, owner: Wendy Warrick
- **S&G Discount Outlet, Inc. dba S&G Carpet and More** — 533 Stone Road #A, owners: James and Donald Ratajzak
- **Golden Quality & Compliance Services** — 960 Grant Street, owner: Deborah Golden
- **Diane Dimond, Ma., MFT** — 821 East 2nd Street, Ste 201F, owner: Diane Dimond
- **Silicon Valley Prototyping LLC** — 701 East H Street, Ste D, owners: Sean Finn and Neil Ganz
- **Global Reach Manufacturing Solutions** — 701 East H Street, Ste C, owners: Sean Finn and Neil Ganz

- *Economic Development*



**ANNUAL LIFEGUARD IN-SERVICE WEEK:** The City of Benicia lifeguards kicked off summer with a week of in-services training. Every morning the guards attended training to prepare for the busy summer ahead. The greatest emphasis was on rescue skills and emergency care - water rescues, CPR, AED, Oxygen, spinal injury care, sudden illness care and first aid. These skills are presented in a way that encourages teamwork and fun competition.

The lifeguards are encouraged to set personal goals for the summer. Examples included, "become a better lesson teacher", "improve my rescue times" and "set a good example for the younger guards". The guards did a great job and are excited for the summer ahead! – *Parks & Community Services*



## **M**AYOR PATTERSON GOES TO WASHINGTON: Mayor Patterson was one of only 20



mayors across the nation invited to join President Barack Obama on June 18 for the first-ever [Maker Faire](#) that was held at the White House. Mayor Patterson joined a policy discussion with senior Obama Administration officials discussing support for manufacturing communities on economic, infrastructure and community revitalization.

She used the event to help boost advanced manufacturing, innovative technology, and the “Maker Movement” in Benicia. Noting the

manufacturing sector is coming back in America and in communities like Benicia, and remains a source of good jobs and economic innovation. One emerging driver of manufacturing innovation is the “Maker Movement”, which is an effort to provide access to high-tech tools and new approaches for businesses, entrepreneurs, and students.

In Benicia, the local Maker Movement has inspired the incorporation of Benicia Makerspace. Benicia Makerspace has conducted multiple community workshops at the Benicia Community Center and recently participated in the Bay Area Maker’s Faire. Founding members recently made a presentation to the Economic Development Board noting that they are working towards establishing Benicia Makerspace where people come together to collaborate, invent, prototype and test new ideas using state of the art equipment. They envision the space as a community shop where individuals and entrepreneurs can come together to make things, use shared equipment, learn new skills, and incubate new business ideas. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, 3D printing, electric vehicles, alternative energy, robotics, Arduino, and raspberry pi. Click [here](#) for more information on Benicia Makerspace. – *Economic Development*



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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**