

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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JULY 1, 2013

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

**ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING AT CITY HALL:** Good news! The City has installed two electric vehicle charging stations at City Hall, a ChargePoint unit and a ClipperCreek unit. These stations are available for employee and for public use.

**Hours of Operation:** Monday-Friday, 8AM-6PM

**Time limit:** EV drivers may charge for up to 4 hours

**Cost:** \$1.50/hr plus a one-time \$0.62 transaction fee (transaction fee will be charged for the entire hour regardless of how long you actually charge)

**How did the City arrive at the hourly rate?:**

The \$1.50/hour fee was assessed to cover the costs of providing the service to the public.

**How to pay:** EV drivers have three options 1) pay with Parkmobile smart phone application, 2) pay at the Chargepoint station with a credit card or Chargepoint pass, or 3) request an access code from the Community Development Department.

**Who can use the station:** Any member of the public or City employees.

**Do City employees get a discounted rate:** No, not at this time.

**Do I need to sign up with the City before I charge:** No. By charging, an EV driver accepts the terms and conditions posted on the side of the charging unit.

More information is available on the City's website [here](#), and on the Sustainable Benicia website [here](#). If you have any questions about these stations, or would like an on-site tutorial, please feel free to contact Alex Porteshawver at [aporteshawver@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:aporteshawver@ci.benicia.ca.us) or at 707.746.4276. – *Community Development*



## CITY RECEIVES AED FROM VALERO FOR CLOCKTOWER:

On June 24, the Valero Benicia Refinery graciously donated to the City of Benicia an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). The unit will be installed at the Clocktower in order to serve the estimated 35,000 patrons who annually use the facility.



The idea was initiated by Art Mayoff, a Benicia resident who not only volunteers as an attendant at the Clocktower, but also as a volunteer for the Fire Department's Benicia Emergency Response Team (BERT) and the Police Department's Volunteer in Police Services (VIPS) program.



The City of Benicia would like to thank Valero for their generous donation and their Chief Joe Bateman and VPP and EMS Coordinator Ric Irizarry for working diligently to acquire the AED equipment and Art Mayoff for his great idea! – *Fire Department and Parks & Community Services*

**ELECTRONIC BOOK BOOKCLUB:** Coming in the Fall, the Benicia Public Library will offer an electronic book “book club”. Books will be pre-loaded onto Kindle e-readers for book club participants. Look for more information on this program on the [Library's website](#) in future months. - *Library*





**YOUTH ACTION COALITION SERVES UP ROOT BEER FLOATS:** The Benicia Youth Action Coalition’s mission is to reduce the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs by underage youth. Each year, members of the Coalition serve root beer floats to the Benicia High and Liberty High School graduates during their graduation practice. Special commemorative cups are given to each student with the message that says "Congratulations Class of 2013 Be Safe Don't Drink and Drive".

"This is a fun event with a powerful message. The graduates look forward to the root beer floats and it gives the Coalition the opportunity to re-enforce the message "Don't Drink and Drive",” states Patti Baron, Youth Action Coalition Coordinator.



This annual event is funded through the partnership and grant provided by the Solano County Coalition for Better Health. On hand to scoop were Patti Baron, Councilmember Christina Strawbridge, Parent, Karen LaRiviere, Angel Allison with the Library, Coalition member Ken Davena and Coalition Chair Jerry Pollard. – *Police Department*



**CITY MANAGER FEATURED IN VIDEO SERIES:** The latest edition of the “Meet Your City Manager” video series, produced by the California City Management Foundation (CCMF), features Brad Kilger, Benicia’s City Manager, sharing his thoughts on government at the local level.

In this frank and informative interview, now available online at [www.cacitymanagers.org](http://www.cacitymanagers.org), Brad discusses the council-manager relationship, his accomplishments as city manager, and his love of the profession. Brad also currently serves as President of the League of California Cities City Manager’s Department.

“The field of city management is a very challenging, yet rewarding profession,” said Brad. “It is not for the faint of heart. It requires that an individual be ready and willing to respond at any time of the night or day to the needs of his or her community. I consider myself very fortunate to be able to serve the citizens of Benicia and I hope my thirty-three years of municipal government experience have in some small way contributed to the betterment of their quality of life.”

Brad’s is the eighth interview in this informative video series, designed to engage the public and foster discussion between the city’s populace and its leaders.



The California City Management Foundation is the premier advocacy and support organization for City Managers. Its mission is to promote and encourage excellence in city management throughout the council-manager local governments of California. – *City Manager*

## MOVIE NIGHT UNDER THE STARS



**WHAT:** BRAVE

**WHEN:** Friday, July 26th

**\*\*Movie begins at dusk\*\***

**WHERE:** City Park Gazebo

**FREE POPCORN DURING THE MOVIE**

**OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT:** Our first outdoor movie night of the season was a huge success! We had several hundred families attend the viewing of “E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial” on Friday, June 21. It was a beautiful Benicia night and families brought their picnic dinners, blankets and relaxed at City Park and enjoyed a movie under the stars. Don’t miss next month’s movie on **Friday, July 26**. We will be showing “BRAVE”!! For more information on our outdoor movie schedule and other great summer activities, check out our [Summer Activity Guide](#) on the City’s website under the Parks & Community Services Department. – *Parks & Community Services*

**DISCOVER & GO: MUSEUM PASSES FOR LIBRARY USERS:** Summer is the perfect opportunity to discover new museums or to visit a favorite museum in the Bay area and the Benicia Public Library can help with their [Discover and Go](#) museum program. Find the icon on the Library's homepage and browse venues, then use your Library card to reserve a pass.



You can browse by date or venue and note any limitations of the museum (some allow only one reservation in a calendar year and others allow varying combinations of adults and children). Up to two reservations are allowed on your Library card at one time. Tickets must be printed out before you attend the museum. Note that reservations cannot be cancelled once a ticket is printed.

Here's a sample of what's available:

- California Academy of Sciences
- Cartoon Art Museum
- Charles M. Schulz Museum
- Habitot Children's Museum
- The Lawrence Hall of Science
- Lindsay Wildlife Museum
- Napa Valley Museum
- Oakland Aviation Museum
- Pacific Pinball Museum
- Tech Museum of Innovation
- UC Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive
- U.C. Botanical Garden at Berkeley
- USS Hornet Museum

In addition to the above museums, the Library offers passes to the Asian Art Museum and to the Benicia Historical Museum at the Camel Barns. [Click here](#) for more information. Passes are first come, first served. – *Library*

**FIRE DEPARTMENT IN ACTION:** The recent June rain caused slick and hazardous driving conditions on Benicia's roadways. Wet conditions and speed were major factors in two significant vehicle accidents which required the Benicia Fire Department to extricate and rescue drivers from their vehicles. Please...slow down during wet weather. – *Fire Department*



**BPD PARTICIPATES IN ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN:** On Wednesday, June 26, Police Chief Andrew Bidou and members of the Benicia Police Department ran in the Solano County leg of the Law Enforcement Special Olympics Northern California annual event. The symbolic passing of the torch started weeks ago and is passed from one law enforcement agency to the next ending at the Special Olympic Northern California weekend event at UC Davis Aggie Stadium.

The event is a fund raiser for Northern California Special Olympics. The Benicia Police Officers Association donates \$500 to the event each year. Members of the Department were proud to participate in this annual event. – *Police Department*



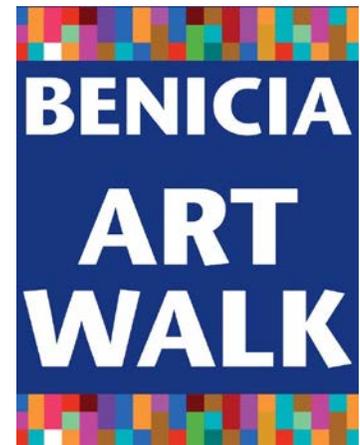
**JUNIOR BASEBALL CAMP:** The Parks & Community Services Department offered a 4-day Summer Baseball Camp during the week of June 24. The camp was coached by Recreation Coordinator & Assistant BHS Varsity Baseball Coach Eliot Palmer and several of the Benicia High School Baseball coaches and players. This was great opportunity to learn from



local talented players and coaches. Players learned fundamental skills and had a lot of fun. Ages ranged from 4 years to 12 years old. – *Park & Community Services*



**ART WALK, A GREAT SUMMER DAY BY THE BAY:** The Benicia Art Walk on July 13, 3:00-7:00PM, heats up with more than 20 dedicated businesses, galleries, and public art venues showcasing a variety local art. July’s Art Walk theme is A Great Summer Day by the Bay and celebrates our wind and water with kite flying at the First Street Green. Benicia Kite and Paddle Sports will be flying a variety of their kites and encourages you to come down and fly your own or try your hand at one of theirs. Additionally, several downtown merchants will be displaying kites and Lindsay Art Glass will have candle making demonstrations.



Benicia Art Walk, a self-guided tour of local art, takes place on the Second Saturday of the month, April-October, from 3:00-7:00 PM. Pick up a brochure from one of the participating galleries or [download it here](#). – *Economic Development*

**SUMMER IS IN FULL SWING AT ADVENTURES DAY CAMP:** Our first Session’s theme was “The Great Outdoors” and the children participated in some fun adventures. The first week of camp, Python Ron visited us for an hour long show that was open to the public as well. More than 300 children from the community and Adventures Day Camp gathered in the City Gym to meet all different creatures that Python Ron travels with. Just a few reptiles he brought with him this year included a 4-foot-long lizard and an 18- foot long Python!



ADC also took their first fieldtrip of the summer to Tilden Park in Berkeley. Children had the opportunity to spend a day in the outdoors visiting and feeding the animals at the Little Farm, then hiking to a perfect lunch spot at Lake Anza. Their day at Tilden Park ended with a Steam Train ride through the hills of Berkeley. – *Parks & Community Services*



**RESPONSIBLE BEVERAGE SERVICE TRAINING:** On June 19, the Benicia Police Department sponsored its bi-annual Responsible Beverage Service training class for local restaurant/tavern owners and their employees that serve alcohol. The training is certified by the State Alcohol Beverage Control Department. It is a free three-hour training that provides owners/employees with valuable information regarding how to serve alcohol responsibly, outlines current ABC liquor laws, how to spot fake ID's, and how to handle difficult customers.

This class had 25 participants from Sandoval's, Randy's, Benicia Yacht Club, Cullen's Tannery Pub, Venticello's, The Wine Loft, Palermo's, and The Chill. Each participant receives a certificate that is good for two years.

"This is a great partnership between the police department and local businesses that serve alcoholic beverages," Benicia Police Coordinator Patti Baron said.

"Our local restaurant/tavern owners are very supportive of this training and make sure they send their employees on a regular basis."



The grant funding for this educational training is provided through the Police Department's Youth Action Coalition and the Solano County Coalition for Better Health and is part of the collaborative effort between the county and the city to reduce alcohol related problems. – *Police Department*

**SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT AT THE LIBRARY:** There are lots of programs in store for kids at the Benicia Public Library this summer.

On Tuesday nights, the Library offers programs for ages 3 to 8 years. This year, they have a new program called Catch-a-Beat, a multicultural program with rhythm and dance. Also, Puppet Art Theater is returning after several years, and scavenger hunt and chalk art are scheduled. Bubble Lady Rebecca Niles will be there **Tuesday, July 9** at 7:00 PM.

On Wednesdays, they have programs designed for kids ages 8 to 14 years. Comic magician Courtney Kolb returns for an encore performance. Three performers - Catch-a-Beat, Busy Bee Dogs, and Kaylee Smith are new to Benicia this year. You've heard



about Catch-a-Beat already; Ms. Rogers will do different programs on Tuesday night and Wednesday. Busy Bee Dogs are talented dogs who have appeared on America's Got Talent - and best of all, they were rescued from shelters! Kaylee Smith plays guitar and sings - you'll hear songs she wrote herself, and some from fun pop stars such as Katy Perry and Taylor Swift.

The complete list of events is available on the [Library's website](#). Admission is free. - *Library*

## **P**ARKS & BUILDING MAINTENANCE PROJECTS:



Just in time for summer, two projects were just completed. As we enjoy the excitement of the French Open & Wimbledon on television be sure to stop by the resurfaced Civic Center Tennis Courts in the 100 blk. East K Street. There are always great tennis matches taking place.



Also, families playing and picnicking at Willow Glen Park will be happy to see the restroom replacement has been completed. Willow Glen Park is located at the Corner West 7<sup>th</sup> & West K Streets. – *Parks & Community Services*

## **P**D VOLUNTEERS ASSIST WITH BIKE THE BRIDGES EVENT:

On June 9, the 4th Annual Special Olympics Law Enforcement sponsored Bike the Bridges event was held. Over 500 cyclists participated in this year's event and raised over \$62,000 for Special Olympics. The 25-, 65-, and 100-mile Bike Ride starts at the Martinez waterfront, travels over the Carquinez Bridge through Vallejo and



Benicia, then over the Benicia/Martinez Bridge back to Martinez waterfront.



Police Department Volunteer Coordinator Patti Baron and police volunteers Doc Uhlman, Art Schipper and Dick Meyer staffed the day long rest stop at Lake Herman Park. – *Police Department*

**GRASS FIRE UPDATE:** On Tuesday, June 18, at approx. 2:15PM, the Benicia Fire Department was dispatched to a report of a grass fire originating at 4501 California Court in the Industrial Park. Benicia Fire responded with a full dispatch, including the on-duty

Benicia personnel and one Engine from Vallejo.



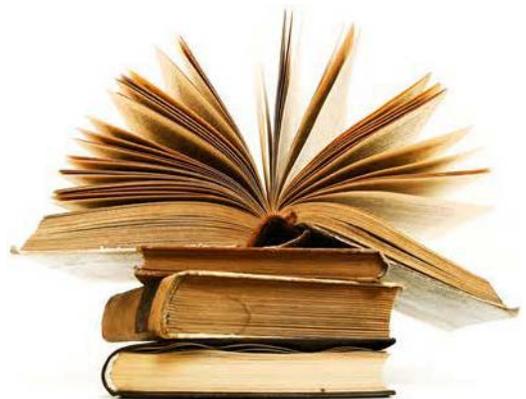
Photo courtesy of Benicia Patch.

As the first units arrived, Firefighters observed a couple of acres on fire moving rapidly toward Reservoir Road. An additional alarm of local resources was requested as the fire rapidly grew due to the strong winds and dry fuel.

Cal Fire provided a helicopter, air tankers and hand crews to help fight the fire. Local government agencies were present as well, including Vallejo, Cordelia, Contra Costa, Suisun District, Fairfield, Valero, American Canyon, Montezuma and Vacaville Fire. Engines from Fairfield and Travis Air Force Base provided station coverage for the city. The Benicia Police Department also provided support, setting up road closures in the area.

The grass fire grew to 124 acres before it was fully contained. A shed was burned, but the fire threatened no other buildings and there were no injuries reported. Crews worked through the night to ensure there were no flare ups, and fire scene investigators from Cal Fire and Benicia Fire Department returned in the morning to determine the origin and cause of the fire. The fire and cause report is pending. – *Fire Department*

**BOOKS FOR BOOK CLUBS:** The Benicia Public Library is now loaning sets of books for your book club. Each set has 8 – 10 copies. One person will check out the set for their group and has 60 days to read and return them. To find sets that are available, go to the Library’s website [www.BeniciaLibrary.org](http://www.BeniciaLibrary.org), click on “[Book Club Books & Dates](#)” under Reader’s Book Space, then click “Books for Book Clubs” at the bottom of the page. Keep up to date on new available selections by signing up to receive the Books for Book Club newsletter.



If you have any questions or want to place a hold on a set, call Helaine Bowles at 707.746.4358 or email <mailto:hbowles@ci.benicia.ca.us> to place a hold on one of the sets. First come, first serve. - *Library*

## **FIRE ENGINEER EXAM:** The Benicia Fire Department, in conjunction with the Benicia



Human Resources Department, is currently in the process of conducting an in-house promotional exam for the position of Fire Engineer. While under the supervision of a Fire Captain, the Fire Engineer is responsible for safely driving, maintaining, pumping, and operating all fire department apparatus including engines and trucks. In addition to basic apparatus driving and maintenance skills, the Engineer must possess detailed knowledge of the city's water system, understand pump hydraulics, and be able to perform complex calculations. On June 18, six Firefighter Paramedic candidates took part in the 120-question written exam. Upon successful completion of the exam, candidates will take a Department of Motor Vehicles pre-trip inspection and driving test proctored by a California Highway Patrol officer. From there, candidates will complete a manipulative pumping exam.

Finally, candidates who successfully complete the manipulative exams will take part in an oral board interview. – *Fire Department*

## **CALL FOR ARTISTS:** The Benicia Public Library Art Gallery Committee is looking for

artist submission proposals for the 2014 exhibition calendar for the Marilyn Citron O'Rourke Gallery at the Library. The gallery showcases the work of local and regional artists. Exhibits appear for a period of 4-6 weeks. Artists are responsible for logistics and for installation and removal of the exhibits. More information is available on the [Library's website](#). Applications are due by **September 1**. – *Library*



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

**Maintenance – Streets:**

- **Paving-** West 4th Street at Vista Court, East K Street at 3rd Street alley, West K Street at 4th St alley, 600 East 5th Street, 500 East G Street.
- **Weed Abatement-** East Channel Road, R-1,2,3 Reservoir sites, McAllister and Cambridge bench roads, West Channel Road, West 11th Street.
- **Curb Painting-** Hastings Drive, City Pool, Braitto Park entrance, Dartmouth at White Chapel.
- **Sign Installation-** Military West, Military East at East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, East 2nd at F Street, West H at First Street, West 5th Street, West I Street, Raymond Drive, Military East, West 5th Street, Cooper Drive, Bigler Court.
- **Miscellaneous-** Farmer's Market set-up, Military East at 7th Street valve box repair, West L Street alley illegal dumping removal, Ardmore Way sidewalk, Park Road at Indiana illegal dumping clean-up.

**Maintenance – Sewer:**

- **Repairs-** East 6th at G Street replaced 35' lateral.
- **Customer Service Calls-** 400 Military East, Pacifica Court, 1800 East 3rd Street, 100 Ardmore Way, 1200 West K Street, 500 Lori Drive, East 6th at G Street, 100 Dartmouth Way, East 2nd Marina, Francisca Court, 600 Military East, 1000 East 2nd Street, 1100 West 2nd Street.
- **Closed Circuit Televising-** Pacifica Court, Ardmore Way, West K Street, East 3rd Street.
- **Lift Station Cleanings-** Carlisle Way, Panorama Drive, Cambridge Drive
- **City-Wide Main Cleanings-** Service Calls 638', Scheduled 5,875

**Maintenance – Water:**

- Had 3 main leaks and 4 service line repairs. Other completed work included 13 valves exercised, 4400 customer meters read, weekly hydrant flushing, daily customer services and daily USA's to protect the Cities utilities.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects:**

- Staff recently finished the rehabilitation of the Odor Scrubber system. Towers were taken off-line and the media was removed, then the towers insides were cleaned and new media was installed. Testing is due to be performed to test how much more efficient the systems will perform with the new media installed.



**WWTP Plant Maintenance:**

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

**WWTP Plant Performance:**

- The Plant processed 78.06 million gallons of raw wastewater with no Permit exceedances. Nutrient pollution removal; BOD = 98.4% TSS = 98.4% .

**Laboratory:**

- In the month of May, the Laboratory Technicians analyzed samples for the drinking water and wastewater treatment plants. In total, 349 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 97.5% survival rate. All compliance reports were submitted on time.
- The Water Quality Technician completed weekly drinking water distribution system monitoring and monthly Lake Herman monitoring, all of which yielded normal results. The annual Consumer Confidence Report, which summarizes drinking water quality for 2012, was sent out in water bills. Extra copies are available on request. The Wastewater Technician inspected businesses and collected samples from industrial dischargers.

- *Public Works*

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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**

**[Police Department:](#) 707.746.4265**

**[Public Works:](#) 707.746.4240**