



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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JULY 7, 2014

City of Benicia City Manager Brad Kilger's *City Manager's Report* is published twice monthly. Previous editions are available on the City of Benicia [City Manager's page](#). For additional information on any items in this report, please see [Contact List](#) on last page.

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**E**MERGENCY ORDINANCE LIMITS LANDSCAPE WATERING: The Benicia City Council, on July 1, adopted emergency outdoor watering restrictions that limit landscape irrigation to three days per week on specific days and times.

The emergency ordinance is designed to further encourage water reductions in light of the serious drought plaguing California and its impacts on Benicia's water supplies. Benicia typically gets 85 percent of its water from the State Water Project, but deliveries will be limited this year, according to state officials.

Effectively immediately through **October 15, 2014**, the emergency ordinance stipulates that:

- Residents with addresses ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9) can only water on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Residents with addresses ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6 or 8) can only water Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
- Residents are allowed to water on their designated day only, but not during the hours between 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM.
- Watering on Sundays is prohibited.



From **October 16, 2014** to **March 31, 2015**, landscape watering will be limited to one day per week—on Saturdays or Sundays only.

The restrictions apply to both residential and commercial customers and will remain in effect until the City Council declares an end to the water shortage emergency.

At a typical home, more than 50 percent of water use goes to watering lawns and outdoor landscaping, and about 30 percent of that is lost due to overwatering and evaporation from wind and sun. By taking immediate action to

limit landscape watering, the City can maximize the potential for savings during peak temperature and water use months, which can help achieve the 20 percent voluntary reduction target set by city council members in February.

City of Benicia residents reduced their water use by nearly 10 percent since March compared to the same timeframe in 2012, the city's baseline for measurement, according to an analysis by the Benicia Public Works Department. The City is using 2012 as the baseline year because it closely matches a five-year average for water use.

With the emergency ordinance's adoption, the City will begin notifying residents about restrictions through direct mail, newspaper advertising and information posted to the City's water conservation webpage, [BeniciaSavesWater.org](http://BeniciaSavesWater.org).

Residents will have a one-month grace period to follow the new watering schedule before the City begins enforcing the new ordinance. Customers will receive a written notice for the first violation. Fines will be issued for further violations--a second offence is \$50, a third is \$100, and a fourth and every subsequent offense is \$250.

Free services and rebates are available to help residential and business customers use less water. More information plus water wise tips are available at the City Hall booth at each Thursday's Farmers Markets, at [BeniciaSavesWater.org](http://BeniciaSavesWater.org) or by contacting the City's Water Conservation Team at 707. 746.4380 or [water@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:water@ci.benicia.ca.us). - *Public Works*

### **FIRST STREET: BEST OF THE BAY FOR RETAIL:**

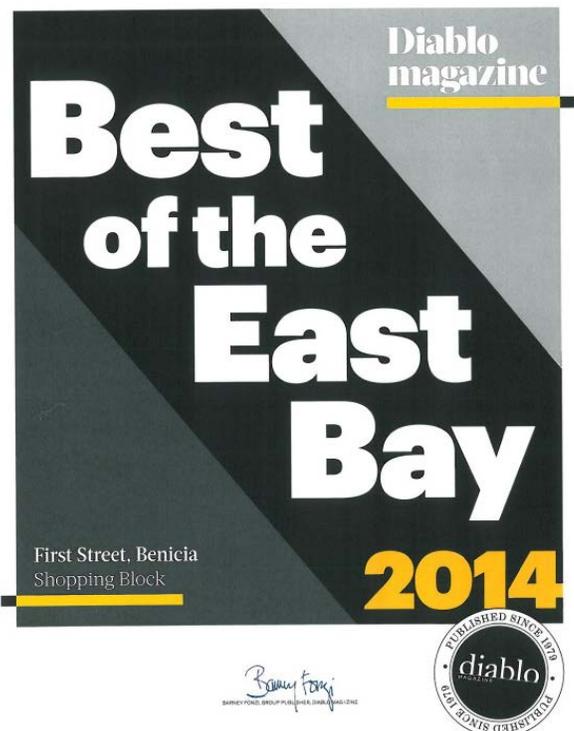
We knew it, but now it's in print! The July 2014 edition of *Diablo Magazine* has named their picks for Best of the East Bay 2014. In the category of retail, they have named First Street, Benicia as the Best Shopping Block as chosen by their editor.

In the article *Bella Benicia, For a relaxing shopping experience, head north*, Angel Heart 4 You, Camellia Tea Room, Christina S, and Be Chic are especially noted.

On the page entitled *Night On The Town, Hit these spots for a superfun time with friends*. The best place to end the evening right was the editor pick for the best Late-Night Spot: The Rellik Tavern.

Coincidentally, the Office of Economic Development sponsored a co-op ad of local businesses wanting to advertise in the Best of the East Bay edition. This enabled business to take advantage of the City's non-profit advertising rate. The ad features Lucca Bar & Grill, Lindsay Art Glass, Camellia Tea Room, Nourot Glass Studio, Mai Thai, and Sailor Jack's and appears opposite the popular Diablo Dish restaurant review page.

Congratulations First Street retail businesses for a job well done! – *Economic Development*



**BENICIA FIRE DEPLOYS MUTUAL AID RESOURCES:** As a participant in the California Master Mutual Aid Plan, the Benicia Fire Department received requests for assistance on July 1. In response to the requests, BFD deployed one of their Wildland Engines with a three person crew. In addition, they assigned one of their Fire Captains to lead another strike team of 5 engines from other Solano County fire agencies.

The resources were initially assigned to the Butts Incident in Napa County. They remained at that incident until July 5. They were then reassigned to the Monticello Incident in Yolo County. The crews were expected to be released to return to Benicia sometime late in the day on July 8.

On July 4, the Fire Department received an additional request for assistance due to incidents occurring in Solano County. They again assigned a Wildland Engine with a three person crew that responded to two incidents in Dixon off of Highway 113. [Click here](#) for Cal Fire updates on current incidents.

Participation by the Benicia Fire Department in the mutual aid system both locally and at the state level has reciprocal benefits. It is through this system that we receive the necessary resources and support for incidents in the City of Benicia. In Solano County, the fire department routinely provides support to and receives support from neighboring agencies. In fact, Solano County fire protection agencies recently updated the Mutual Aid Plan in order to better manage larger incidents and insure that we are able to get assistance from the closest appropriate resources. – *Fire Department*



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN:** On June 26, law enforcement agencies throughout Solano County participated in the 2014 Solano County Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. The annual event brings local law enforcement together to show their support for Special Olympics and the athletes who participate in the games. Special Olympics are held annually in over 150 countries.



This year, Andrew Bidou, Mike Greene, Frank Hartig, Angela Knight, Kelly Botello, Suzie Kaluza and Laura Williams represented the Benicia Police Department. The group began the Run from the Police Department, passing the torch to representatives of the Vallejo Police Department at the entrance to the Benicia State Recreation Area. Ultimately, the torch was delivered to the U.C.

Davis Aggie Stadium, the location of the 2014 Northern California Special Olympics. – *Police Department*

**POET'S PICNIC:** You are invited to join poets from around the Bay Area as Benicia's next Poet Laureate, Don Peery, is introduced at the annual Poets' Picnic on **Sunday, August 3** at the City Park (First & Military) near the Gazebo. Celebration events and poetry reading will be from 2:00-4:00 PM. Bring your chairs or blankets and enjoy a potluck lunch with water provided by the First Tuesday Poetry Group. – *Library*



**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:

- **GHX Industrial** - 2970 Bay Vista Court, Ste C, owners: Richard Harrison and Dan Maddox
- **Brows By Threads** - 880 Southampton Road, owners: Jaspreet and Gurmeet Khinda
- **Honest Ed's** - 3001 Bayshore Road #19, owner: Diwan Ross

- *Economic Development*



**SUPERHEROES WANTED:** City of Benicia employees have formed a team for the 2014 Benicia Relay for Life and invite you to join them in walking on the weekend of **August 16 and 17**. Go to <http://www.relayforlife/beniciaca>, look for the City of Benicia Employees team and sign up (for only \$10!). Invite friends, family and loved ones and walk to support the American Cancer Society. Contact [Kate Gibbs](#), Deputy City Clerk for more information at 707.746.4200. - *City Clerk*



**BENICIA-TULA SISTER CITY VISIT:** A nine-member delegation from Benicia's Sister City, Tula Hidalgo Mexico visited Benicia for five days last week. Among those visiting were Tula's Mayor Jaime Allende, his wife and son, members of their City Council and officials from the Tula-Benicia Sister City Association.



The group was greeted on arrival with a reception at City Hall attended by the Benicia Mayor, City Council Members, City Manager, and members of the Benicia-Tula Sister City organization. Friendships were renewed and proclamations were exchanged.

The visitors had a busy few days that included visits to the Recology facility in San Francisco, Valero Benicia Refinery, and an area brewery. They also were part of the Torchlight Parade and enjoyed the city's Fourth of July festivities. On their last full day, the group went on a tour of the Benicia Historical Museum, followed by a Friendship Dinner attended by local dignitaries. The trip was sponsored by local businesses, community organizations and the City of Benicia. Members of the visiting delegation expressed gratitude to their host families and for the warmth that they have received from everyone during their visit.

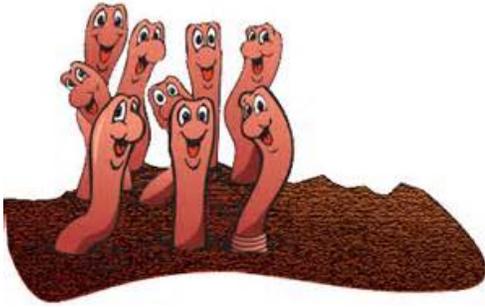


B-TSC member Leslie McBride, Mayor Patterson, T-BSC VP Rogelio Gonzalez & Olga Martinez, Tula Councilwoman

Tula is a city of about 100,000 people north of Mexico City. Mayor Allende was proud to note that their pedestrian-only Tula-Benicia Bridge is currently in construction to allow for vehicle traffic connecting the downtown area to other nearby cities.

If you're interested in becoming part of the Benicia-Tula Sister City Association, contact the City Manager's Office at 707.746.4215 from more information. – *City Manager's Office*

## **WORM WORKSHOP COMING:** Composting with redworms is great for apartment



dwellers who don't have yard space, or for those who don't want to hike to a backyard compost bin with their food scraps. Some kids even like to keep worms for pets! By letting worms eat your food wastes, you'll end up with one of the best soil amendments available—worm castings.

Worms eat kitchen scraps (breads, grains, cereal, fruits and vegetables, coffee grounds & filters, and tea bags fruits, vegetables) and create worm castings, which are a valuable soil amendment and plant tonic. Though castings are often called fertilizer, they're actually not very high in nitrogen, but they are full of plant-supporting nutrients. Sprinkle castings on potted plants and over garden beds. A little goes a long way and a handful can go into the bottom of a planting hole to get a plant off to a good start.

Sign up to learn how to build your own worm bin on **Saturday, July 12** at 9:00 AM at Avant Community Garden at First & D Streets. Hosted by Republic Services, RSVP to [mknutson@republicservices.com](mailto:mknutson@republicservices.com) or 925.671.5814. – *City Manager's Office*

**SOLTRANS BENICIA ROUTE UPDATE:** Solano Transportation Authority (SolTrans) announced Route 20 pilot service between downtown Benicia, Solano Community College (Vallejo), and Gateway Plaza in Vallejo in the midday. This pilot service will provide a direct transit link between Benicia and Vallejo educational, shopping, and recreational destinations including:



- Solano Community College
- Target
- Best Buy
- Century Theaters

[Click here](#) for a printable of the schedule and map. – *Library*

## **FIREFIIGHTERS SUPPORT LITTLE LEAGUE:** Recently, Benicia Firefighters became



aware of the effort to raise funds to replace the scoreboard at Ribeiro Field. Members of the Benicia Firefighter's Association looked into the details and decided that they would fully fund the replacement of the scoreboard! The new scoreboard was recently installed and is fully functional, waiting for work to be done to add the sponsorship information to the board.

As a result, several members of the District All-Stars recently arrived at the main fire station to show their appreciation to the Association for the donation by providing lunch for the firefighters on duty. – *Fire Department*

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT:** This year, the 31st Annual National Night Out will be on **Tuesday, August 5** from 6:00-9:00 PM. Benicia Neighborhood Watch groups are participating by hosting block parties and will join thousands of other communities across the nation in promoting cooperative, police-community crime prevention efforts. Neighborhood Watch groups will celebrate by having pot lucks, BBQs, ice cream socials, games and activities for kids.



The Benicia Police Department will coordinate a caravan to visit each of the local block parties. The caravan includes members of the City Council and City staff, and Police and Fire Department personnel.

Questions on National Night Out and Neighborhood Watch can be addressed by [Patti Baron](#) at 707.746.4268. – *Police Department*

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CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information on any of the items in this report, please contact the following related department or contact Brad Kilger at the City Manager's Office:

[City Manager/Human Resources/I.T./City Clerk](#): 707.746.4200

[City Attorney](#): 707.746.4216

[Community Development](#): 707.746.4280

[Economic Development](#): 707.746.4202

[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