



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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JULY 28, 2014

The *City Manager's Report* from City of Benicia City Manager Brad Kilger 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](#) at the end of this report.

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**BEST WAYS TO SAVE AND DROUGHT TIPS FOR CLOTHES WASHERS:** The single best thing you can do to improve clothes washer efficiency is to replace an old inefficient machine with a new high efficiency washer. Traditional clothes washers (Top Loaders) use approximately 41 gallons per load (gpl) while high efficiency machines (Front Loaders) use only 23 gpl.

Solano County Water Agency and PG&E are offering rebates between \$125 and \$200 for the purchase of high efficiency washing machines. Rebates amounts will be determined by the water savings of the washing machine model purchased. Solano County has partnered with PG&E and only one application is need to get both rebates. For more information go to [www.solanosaveswater.org/rebates](http://www.solanosaveswater.org/rebates).

No matter what kind of clothes washer you have, here are some basic tips that can reduce water use for clothes washing:

- Operate the washer with full loads only – even if the machine has an adjustable load setting. A full load is the most efficient way to wash clothes.
- If your washer has a variable water volume setting, select the minimum amount required per load.
- Pretreat stains to avoid rewashing.
- Use the shortest wash cycle for lightly soiled loads.
- Check your clothes washer hoses regularly for cracks that could result in leaks.
- Washing in cold water saves energy and lowers your energy utility bills but does *not* save water.

- *Public Works*



If your washer looks like this, it's time to upgrade to a High Efficiency Washer!

**O**UTDOOR WATERING RESTRICTIONS Q&A: The City of Benicia has a new outdoor watering restrictions ordinance whereby customers are limited to 3 days per week for watering landscape with an automatic sprinkler system. More information is available at [BeniciaSavesWater.org](http://BeniciaSavesWater.org). Here are some common questions and their answers:

**Q:** What days of week and hours can I water?

**A:** Odd addresses can water on Mon, Wed & Fri and even addresses on Tue, Thurs and Sat. Watering hours are before 8 am or after 7 pm.

**Q:** What is the watering duration?

**A:** There is no time limit, but do not let the water run-off the landscape.

**Q:** Is drip irrigation permitted?

**A:** Yes. Drip irrigation is exempt from the ordinance.

**Q:** Can vehicles be washed at home?

**A:** It is preferred to have them washed at car washes with recirculating water, but it is permitted to wash cars at home as long as the hose as an automatic shut-off nozzle.

**Q:** Are the outdoor watering restrictions consistent with the recent statewide limits?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Are rebates available?

**A:** Yes. Please go to [SolanoSavesWater.org](http://SolanoSavesWater.org) for more information.

*-Public Works*



**B**ENICIA IN TOP TEN OF BAY AREA CITIES FOR SCHOOLS: As home prices rocket throughout the Bay Area, the cities with the highest ranked school districts turn out to not necessarily be the most expensive, according to [ZipRealty](http://ZipRealty.com). The online brokerage firm compiled a list of the top 10 Bay Area cities based on school score ranging from zero to 10 with 10 being the highest based on test-score data and student/teacher ratios for every

home listing on ZipRealty.com. Congratulations to the Benicia Unified School District, staff, teacher and families, Benicia made the list at #9 with a score of 7.4!

“School scores absolutely impact real estate values,” said Don Cruz Datanagan, a broker with ZipRealty who oversees the North and East Bay areas. “Homebuyers want the best education for their family and if it’s going to cost them a little extra money to be in the best school district, a lot of people are making that sacrifice.”

Joining Benicia in the Top Ten are Piedmont, Palo Alto, Danville, Pleasanton, Dublin, Albany, Fremont, Castro Valley and Alameda.

Benicia ranked in the Top Ten last year on a similar list last year that was based on median price. This year’s list is based on median price per square foot. [Click here](#) for the article and slideshow in the *San Francisco Business Times*. – *Economic Development*



**F**REE BICYCLE MAINTENANCE AND SKILLS CLINIC: If you're a bicyclist, bring your bike to the free Bicycle Maintenance and Skills Clinic on **Saturday, August 2**, 10:00AM – Noon at the Benicia Community Center, 370 East L Street.



**Learn:** How to change a flat tire, adjust brakes and cables, and check tire pressure.  
**Know:** What to wear, what to bring and safety on the road for your next road trip.  
**Ride:** Try out the fun obstacle courses.

The event is sponsored by the Benicia Bicycle Club, Wheels in Motion, and the Community Sustainability Commission. For

more information, call 707.748.0155 or 707.742.4419. – *Community Development*

**B**ACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED: The Benicia Police Department's Family Resource Center (FRC) is collecting backpacks and school supplies for clients who are single mothers or single parents with low-incomes, who have fallen on hard times this year and need your help. FRC has partnered with the Benicia Unified School District to help foster youth and homeless students as well.

So far, the Benicia MomsGroup & SCOE (Solano County Office of Education) are working to gather items to help families with the increasing costs that come with the start of a new school year. Last year the FRC and Benicia MomsGroup helped 14 families who received 26 backpacks filled with recommended school supplies. This year that number of needed backpacks is close to 40!

If you would like to help our local youth get a happy and successful start to the school year, please drop off items at 150 East K Street between 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Monday-Friday or you can email or call [Conni Holloway](#) at FRC, 707.746.4363, to make other arrangements.



School supplies needed:

- Middle School and High School gender neutral backpacks
- Pencils, papers, calculators, scissors, binders, notebooks, pens, highlighters etc.

School starts on August 20. Please have your donation in by **Friday, August 8** for distribution the week of August 11-15. – *Police Department*

**LIFEGUARD TO THE RESCUE:** Earlier this summer, second-year City of Benicia Lifeguard Emily Wolfe put her Lifeguard and First Aid training to good use outside of the workplace.

As she was leaving her home she saw a group of concrete workers surrounding a man who was lying face down on the lawn of her neighbor's home. She could see that the man on the ground was very ill. As she approached the workers and began asking questions it became obvious to her that the man was dehydrated and experiencing severe heat stroke. Despite a language barrier she was able to take a simple medical history and get the man to remove his socks and roll up his sleeves. She further attempted to cool him off by applying cold, damp cloths to his body and giving him small sips of water. His symptoms had gotten so severe that he could not move parts of his body or sip the water. Emily convinced the other workers that this man was experiencing life threatening conditions and needed immediate medical attention. The workers agreed to take him to the hospital.



Later Emily was told that the man recovered after receiving medical attention, but that doctors said he was moments away from cardiac arrest when he arrived at the hospital. Without Emily's confidence, training and intuition this man may not have received the medical attention needed to save his life. This is an example of the excellent, on-going training that James Lemos Lifeguard staff receives and how helpful it can be to our community.

Emily, the daughter of Kevin and Lisa (City Clerk) Wolfe, graduated from Benicia High School this year and will be attending UC Santa Barbara in the fall. She plans to become a doctor. Way to go Emily! – *Parks & Community Services*

**O**UTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT: This first outdoor movie for the summer was a big hit with all ages. On Friday, June 27, the Parks & Community Services Department presented the Walt Disney blockbuster *Frozen* to the community at the Gazebo at City Park. Record crowds attended and sang along to all the hits from this incredible movie. Families and friends young and old put out blankets and lawn chairs and relaxed and enjoyed a beautiful Benicia night, while munching on complimentary popcorn.

The July 25 Movie Night Under the Stars was another fun night with the showing of *Despicable Me 2*. Mark your calendars for the final movie, *Monsters University* on **Friday, August 22** at dusk.



Special thanks go to all the participants who voted this year on what movies to show. – *Parks & Community Services*

**P**ERSONNEL NEWS: The Benicia Police Department is pleased to announce the hiring of Jessica Woods as the Department's newest Police Officer. Jessica comes to us from Vallejo Police Department and will begin in her new position effective Monday, August 11.

Jessica was raised in Vallejo and received her BA in Sociology from Sac State. She began her career in law enforcement as a cadet with the Vallejo Police Department, graduating from the Napa Valley Police Academy. Many City of Benicia employees know Jessica for the athletic and leadership skills and



championship seasons on the basketball court. – *Police Department*



The Public Works Department is pleased to announce the hiring of Dan Jackson as the new Water Quality Supervisor at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Dan brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new job. He was with Eastbay Municipal Utility District for 27 years, most recently working in their Biology Laboratory. He is a graduate of University of California Berkeley, with a Chemistry Degree. Dan is married and has a teenage son and daughter. In his spare time, Dan loves hiking and gardening. – *Public Works*

*Works*

The Finance Department is pleased to announce the promotion of Greg Henry to the full-time position of Management Analyst. Greg will assist the Department with various projects including budget and forecasting, systems implementation, and financial analysis. Greg lives in Benicia with his wife Weiwei and enjoys Judo, working on computers and reading. – *Finance Department*

Please join me in welcoming Jessica, Dan and Greg to the City of Benicia family. If you see them around, please make them feel welcome. – *City Manager*



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

**P**REPARING FOR TECHNICAL RESCUES: The majority of Benicia Fire Department personnel have been through specialized training programs in order to perform various types of technical rescues. These rescue situations could result from a variety of circumstances such as an industrial accident involving operations in a confined space, a fall in a remote area, or a structural collapse due to a seismic event. This past Friday, the Benicia Fire crews conducted a training exercise in order to refresh their skills using equipment and rope systems that might be deployed during a rescue operation.

The crews used the area at the end of West 10<sup>th</sup> Street to simulate a subject trapped in an inaccessible area of the shoreline. The exercise involved the rapid lowering of a firefighter to the area where the simulated victim was located in order to initiate patient care as needed. The remainder of the crew then used available equipment to construct a series of systems that could be used to deploy additional rescuers and provide for the safe removal of a victim.



This is another example of the depth of training and skill that the members of the Benicia Fire Department maintain in order to provide service and ensure the safety of our community. – *Fire Department*

**U**PGRADE FROM PUBLIC WORKS: Here’s a look at what the Public Works Department was up to June. Maybe they were in your neighborhood?

**Maintenance – Streets:**

- **Paving-** 400 East O Street, 300 East N Street. Patch paved Camellia Court at Hastings, 155 East O Street, Wingfield Way
- **Weed Abatement-** Rose Drive at Columbus Parkway, Panorama Drive, Cambridge Drive, Carolina Drive at West 7th Street, East Second Street, Lake Herman Road, Reservoir Road, Chelsea Hills, and Chadwick Court
- **Potholes-** Industrial Way and East Second Street

- **Special Events-** Torch Light Parade and 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks; Placed No Parking Signs and Barricades on First Street
- **Miscellaneous-** Trash pickup at the Pistol Range gate on Lake Herman Road, Painted red curbs on the corners of First Street

**Maintenance – Sewer:**

- **Customer Service Calls-** 200 Carlisle Way, 500 East H Street, 200 Chadwick Court, 800 West Military, 3000 Park Road, 100 El Bonito, 800 West K Street, 300 Allen Way, 100 Oak Road, 500 East K Street, 100 Wingfield Way, 100 West N Street
- **Closed Circuit Televising-** 200 Chadwick Court, 800 West K Street, 100 Wingfield Way, 100 West N Street
- **Lift Station Cleanings** - Columbus Parkway, Cambridge Drive, West 13th Street
- **Repairs and Improvements** - 230' main replacement in alley north of 500 East G Street, city maintained lateral repair 200 Chadwick Court, 100 El Bonito force main repair, 100 Wingfield Way 35' main extension
- **City Wide Cleanings-** Service Calls 1,862, Scheduled 7,425



**Maintenance – Water:**

- **After Hours call out – Service Lines Replaced at;** 436 Hawthorn, 223 Seaview, 230 St. Augustine, 807 Carsten, 2200 First Street
- **Service Line Repairs** - 232 West J Street, 17 El Paseo, 777 West H Street
- **MainBreaks** - 590 Primrose and Hastings at Camelia
- **Meter reading** the week of June 9

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects:**

- Projects were put on hold because of lack of personnel. Wastewater Division is down to one maintenance position. With personnel leaving and personnel transferring into Operations, Staff is down to making sure that all of the preventive maintenance is being completed and pushing through the corrective maintenance situations, that have been arising.

**WWTP Plant Maintenance:**

- Staff performed 58 preventive maintenance task as well as closing out four corrective maintenance work orders

**WWTP Plant Performance:**

- The Plant processed 72.6 million gallons of raw wastewater with no Permit exceedances.
- Nutrient pollution removal; BOD = 98.8% TSS = 98.5%

- *Public Works*

**ADVENTURES DAY CAMP FIELD TRIP FUN:** We are mid-way through summer and campers at the City's Adventures Day Camp have already enjoyed three amazing field trips. So far, they have visited the Oakland Zoo, San Francisco Exploratorium and the San Francisco Ride the Ducks Tour, and Driven Raceway in Fairfield. Campers can elect to join the field trip for a minimal fee to cover transportation and entrance, and lunch (at select trips). As you can see from the pictures below everyone had a great time!

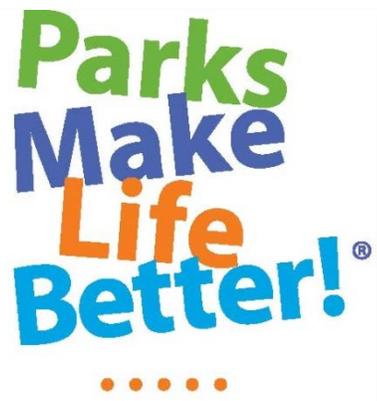


The remaining trips include a SF Giants vs. Pirates game and a trip to Water World. More information is available at the Community Center, [on-line](#), and on page 13 of the Summer Benicia Guide mailed to each home. – *Parks & Community Services*



**JULY IS 'PARKS MAKE LIFE BETTER' MONTH:** At the July 1 Benicia City Council meeting, a resolution was presented to Kimberly Funk, Chairperson for the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Commission recognizing July 2014 as PARKS MAKE LIFE BETTER MONTH.

Parks and Recreation makes lives and communities better now and in the future. Statewide public opinion research showed that 98% of California households visit a local park at least once a year; two in three households visit a park once a month; 50% of households participate in an organized recreation program; and most park use is with family and friends. The residents of Benicia including children, youth, families, adults, seniors, businesses, community organizations, and visitors benefit from the wide range of parks, trails, open space, sports fields, tennis courts, facilities and programs including Benicia Community Park, James Lemos Swim Center, Benicia Senior Center and the Benicia Community Center provided by City of Benicia Parks & Community Services.



Join the celebration and visit your favorite park or thank a friendly City of Benicia employee. There's a calendar of events with great ideas to celebrate Parks Make Life Better month on the last page of our [Summer Benicia Guide](#). – *Parks & Community Services*

**LIFEGUARDS PARTICIPATE IN TORCHLIGHT PARADE:** The City of Benicia Lifeguards carried on the tradition of participating in 3<sup>rd</sup> of July Torchlight Parade. This year's float was "Forrest Gump" themed with many of the guards dressing up as Forrest and Jenny from the movie, doing an excellent job in representing the James Lemos Swim Center.



Thanks to all who volunteered to decorate the float and who participated. Many swim lesson students and their parents watching the parade enjoyed cheering them on! – *Parks & Community Services*

**YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY ANNOUNCED:** Benicia Police Chief Andrew Bidou is pleased to announce that the Benicia Police Department, in coordination with the Benicia Unified School District (BUSD), has scheduled its first annual Youth Police Academy running **August 4-8**. The Youth Academy is being offered to students entering the 7th and 8th grade and will be held at the Benicia Middle School. Currently, the Youth Academy is full with 30 students who have signed up to attend.

The focus of this five day academy is to allow students to interact with law enforcement and to help educate the students about the Benicia Police Department and the law enforcement profession. Some of the topics covered during the week include internet safety and cyber bullying, dangerous drugs, traffic safety, police radar, crime scene investigation, criminal law, police dispatch, police canines and an overview of the justice system. Students will participate in interactive scenarios in which they will apply what they have learned including the processing of crime scenes, collecting fingerprints, DNA and interviewing witnesses and victims. Certificates of achievement will be awarded upon completion of the academy.

The Youth Academy is being coordinated by Sergeant Kenny Hart, and School Resource Officers Sam Peterson and Marjonne Roberson. Participants will receive presentations and have the opportunity to meet and speak with many of the police department's employees.



"We're very excited to offer this program to the youth in our community and our staff has put a lot of thought and effort into planning a fun, positive, and interactive week for the students" said Lt. Mike Greene. For additional information, [email](#) or call Lt. Greene at 707.746.4248. – *Police Department*

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CONTACT INFORMATION

The *City Manager's Report* from City of Benicia City Manager Brad Kilger is published twice monthly. Email your questions or comments to edev@ci.benicia.ca.us. For additional information on any of the items in this report, please contact one of the following departments:

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