

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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AUGUST 2, 2012

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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**RESCUE SWIMMER TRAINING:** On June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, five Benicia Fire Department members participated in an Inland Rescue Swimmer – Basic course conducted by Abigail Posby of Sierra Rescue. This course is the foundation of the new Rescue 3, Rescue Swimmer program. This class is intended to prepare students for conducting rescues in inland open water environments, such as lakes or ponds of various sizes, as well as

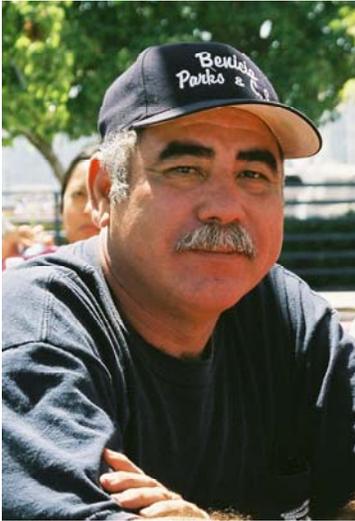


flat-water rivers and park waterfronts. The instruction took place over two days, day one at the James Lemos pool and day two in the bay waters off West Ninth Street Park. To date, nine Benicia Fire Department members have received this training. The American Canyon Fire Protection District supported the training with their boat, and one of their members completed the course as well. The Benicia Fire Department



plans on training more members in the future, as well as looking into a variety of ways of enhancing marine based emergency services. – *Fire Department*

**JUAN VALLEJO, BUILDING MAINTENANCE WORKER, RETIRES:** On July 13, Juan



**JUAN VALLEJO**  
Thanks for 22 years!!

Vallejo retired after 22 years with the Benicia Parks & Community Services Department. Juan always had a smile on his face and was always willing to give anyone a helping hand. He was a constant presence at the James Lemos Swim Center where he worked to keep the pool looking beautiful and operating safely for our patrons and staff. He worked on countless other projects for the city and interacted with many members of the community and other departments on a daily basis. Juan will be missed by the department and the City of Benicia family but we wish him all the best as he starts this next chapter in his life. We held a small reception for Juan on his last day of work. The James Lemos Swim Center lifeguards each presented Juan with a “Lifesaver” candy to represent the lives he helped save by working at the pool in the maintenance division. – *Parks & Community Services*

**BENICIA POLICE RECEIVE FREE BIKE HELMETS AND TRAINING:** On July 10 and July

12, Benicia Police Department Officers received training on California Bicycle and Helmet laws from Tracy Nachand. Mr. Nachand works for the Solano County Public Health Department and specializes in bicycle safety and safe routes to school. For the past several years, the Benicia Police Department has had a great working relationship with not only Mr. Nachand and the Public Health Department, but also with the Solano County Safe Routes 2 School program by hosting numerous educational events such as bicycle rodeos, walking school buses and safety assemblies at all the local elementary schools.



Mr. Nachand supplied officers with laminated information cards that pertained to helmet and bicycle laws. He also provided forty bike safety helmets that will be available for the police to use at their discretion. The helmets were provided through a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety.

“Officers received training on how to properly fit the helmets should they give one out. The helmets will be placed in the trunks of our police cars, and when officers encounter children riding without a helmet, they can educate them on the dangers they face when they ride without a helmet, and at the officer’s discretion, they can provide the child a helmet” said Benicia PD Lieutenant Frank Hartig. “There have been past instances when our officers have stopped children riding bikes without helmets and given them a helmet instead of a ticket. Our ultimate goal is to educate the kids now, so that they will make the right choice to wear a helmet when riding their bikes.” – *Police Department*

**SoFit CITY RUN:** Saturday, September 29, 2012, at 8:00 a.m., at Solano Mall, Fairfield

The Solano County Library Foundation and Solano Fit Magazine are inviting resident of Solano county to their inaugural SoFit City 5K/10K and Family Walk and Run.

This event benefits the Solano County Library Foundation and funds will also be distributed to the Benicia Library Foundation depending on the number of participants and volunteers

Benicia brings into the event. The idea is to see which City in Solano County is

the most fit. This will be determined by the number of participants in each city that **finish** the race. To register, go to [www.SoFitCity.com](http://www.SoFitCity.com). You can also register to volunteer at the event. When you register to volunteer, be sure to enter that you are volunteering to help the Benicia Library.



On **Thursday, August 23 at 6:30 p.m.** there will be a rally at City Park to publicize the event and make it easy for people register. There will be several fitness experts putting on demonstrations. We are hoping that 300 people register for the Benicia team. You don't have to live in Benicia to sign up for our team. - *Library*

**OUTDOOR SUMMER CONCERTS & MOVIES IN THE PARK:** On July 20, the Parks &



Community Services Department hosted another successful movie night at the City Park Gazebo. Community members who arrived early to relax and have a picnic before the movie were entertained with live music provided by the Benicia Performing Arts Foundation. The featured movie was "Dolphin Tail", a movie based on a true story of a dolphin that lost her tail in a crab trap. Over 300 people enjoyed their evening under the stars.

Our next outdoor movie and concert will be on Friday, August 10 at the Gazebo. We will be showing the Oscar nominated film "Hugo" – rated PG. Live music is from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm with the movies starting at dusk. Everyone is invited to bring pillows, blankets, and low chairs and sit back and enjoy the entertainment. Food and beverages are welcome; so don't forget your picnic dinner. We ask that you clean up after the movie and please NO PETS. PETS are not allowed in the park. – *Parks & Community Services*

**BENICIA POLICE DEPARTMENT PROUD TO INTRODUCE NEW OFFICERS:** Benicia PD's



newest officers hit the streets on August 6. Officer Kenyatta Nathaniel was born and raised in Oakland. She attended California State University Sacramento where she obtained her Bachelors of Science degree in Criminal Justice. She is currently attending Kaplan University where she is pursuing her Master's of Business Administration (MBA) and plans to graduate in 2013. Kenyatta has been employed by the Sacramento Police Department for six years where she has worked several assignments such as Patrol,

Auto Theft Detective, School Resource Officer (SRO), and Hostage Negotiator Team (HNT) and is also an active Board Member of the Sacramento Police Activities League (Sac PAL).

Officer Greg Fernandez was born and raised in California, and has always had the desire to become a police officer. After completing high school he attended Napa Valley Police Academy and graduated in 2007. In August 2008, Greg became a reserve police officer with the Hercules Police Department. He excelled in his reserve officer role and after a few months he was promoted to a full-time police officer. During Greg's three plus years as a Hercules Police Officer he primarily worked in the patrol division and held an ancillary assignment as a member of the Special Response Team.



An official swearing in ceremony will be scheduled in late Aug. – *Police Department*

**James Lemos Swim Center Open Until the End of October:** Over the past two years, the Parks & Community Services Department has looked at efficient ways to save money to offset the costs to operate the James Lemos Swim Center for the month of October.



Based on the previous years expenditures in park utilities, the department will have sufficient funds to assist with keeping the pool open. The reduction in the department's cost of utilities, similar to last year, can be contributed to the installation of our new water system that is active at Community Park, Jack London Park, Benicia High School and Skillman Park and staff implementing more efficient irrigation practices.

Programs available to the public during the month of October include:

Lap Swim • Swim Team (WCAN) • Water Aerobics

October dates & time, and hours of operation will be listed in the Fall/Winter Activity Guide. – *Parks & Community Services*

**RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT:** The final piece of the project is almost complete, with the installation of solar panels at the corner of Rose Drive and East Second Street to power the pumping station there, which is critical to supplying drinking water throughout Benicia. The existing gaps in the landscaping along Rose Drive will be filled in with a combination of low-water use shrubs and trees that will add color to the current vegetation and when established over the next several years will block much of the view of the panels for passersby. The overall 2011-12 Renewable Energy and Conservation Project transfers about 40% of City-operations energy use from the electric grid to solar power produced on-site, and conserves another 10% of total City-operations energy use through changes to heating, cooling and lighting systems, including streetlights. Altogether, the project will result in reducing pollution by the same amount as removing more than 9,000 cars from the roadways, will keep as much carbon out of the air as planting 400 acres of pine forest, and is projected to return \$85,000 or more annually over the next 25 years to the City for other energy conservation and production projects. This revenue is in addition to savings realized on the City's energy bills and after payment of debt service on the bonds that funded the project. – *Community Development*



**THE LIBRARY WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE FORD ESCAPE HUNGER DRIVE:** On Saturday, August 11, the Ford Motor Company will have a 2013 Ford Escape outside of the Benicia Public Library to promote their [Hunger Drive](#). **For every person that stops by the display, Ford will donate 40 meals to Feeding America.**



Each visitor will also have an opportunity to put their name into a drawing to win one of 1,500 cars Ford will be giving away around the Country. Stop by the Library from 1:00-3:00 pm to do something good for our neighbors and enter for your chance to win a new car. – *Library*

**BENICIA'S NATIONAL NIGHT OUT:** Just a reminder that Benicia's National Night Out is Tuesday, August 7 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The Police Department, Fire Department, City Council Members and BERT members will caravan and visit the participating Neighborhood Watch block parties in Southampton and Downtown. For more information, contact Patti Baron at 746.4268. – *Police Department*

**BENICIA BUSINESSES INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIQUE VIDEO PROGRAM:** The City of Benicia is getting an exciting addition to its websites and local businesses are invited to participate.

Production is set to begin on a new Video Tour Book that consists of seven - one-minute streaming videos highlighting the best the city has to offer its residents, visitors and businesses on topics such as Quality of Life, Things to Do, Real Estate and Relocation, and Doing Business. When complete, the videos will be available for viewing on the city's official websites at [www.ci.benicia.ca.us](http://www.ci.benicia.ca.us), [www.VisitBenicia.org](http://www.VisitBenicia.org), and [www.BeniciaBusiness.com](http://www.BeniciaBusiness.com).

No city or taxpayer dollars will be used to pay for the community videos. City officials were approached by CGI Communications and are working to offer local businesses a unique opportunity to sponsor the project. Business owners can take advantage of a variety of customized turnkey packages, which feature videos using CGI's patented One Click <sup>TM</sup> technology. The exposure generated has the capability to reach prospective customers from all over the world.

CGI Communications streams video from more than 2,000 municipal websites in North America. It is the largest provider of fully produced Internet videos in North America and has partnerships with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Businesses interested in the program or looking for more information should contact CGI account executive, Mark Tatar at 585-748-5533 by Friday, August 17. – *Economic Development*

**CLIMATE ACTION PLAN COORDINATOR:** Through availability of funding from the Valero/Good Neighbor Steering Committee Settlement Agreement funds, the City was fortunate to hire Sonoma State University as its Climate Action Plan Coordinator team. Alex Porteshawver is working onsite as part of that team to assist the City with its [Climate Action Plan](#) initiatives.



From time to time, Alex will need assistance on the project from various staff members. Alex can be reached at 746.4276. Welcome Alex! – *Community Development*

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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**

**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 & Community Development: 707.746.4240 or 746.4280**