

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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AUGUST 19, 2015

The *City Manager's Report* from City of Benicia City Manager Brad Kilger is published twice monthly highlighting the activities of the departments of our full-service city. 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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**SAVING WATER IN THE SHOWER:** To maximize showering efficiency make sure that you have installed low flow showerheads in all your bathrooms. All showerheads manufactured in the U.S. must restrict flow to 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm) or less. Some models are designed to use even less water. If you live in an older house you may have a showerhead that has a much higher flow rate.

If you're not sure about the flow rate, you can test it with a 5 gallon bucket and a watch. Turn the shower on full blast and put the bucket under the shower to capture all of the flow and at the same time start keeping time. Fill the bucket for 2 minutes. If you shower head uses 2.5 gpm or less, the bucket won't overflow during the test. If the bucket overflows during the test you do not have a low-flow shower head.



During the drought emergency you have been asked to reduce your water use substantially. While shower water usage is typically less than toilet and clothes washer usage, it is an area where water reductions can be made. Here are some tips for maximizing shower use efficiency:

- Take shorter showers. A typical shower last about 8 minutes and uses 17 gallons. An efficient shower last 3 or 4 minutes and uses 7.5 gallons.
- Turn off the water while soaping up or shampooing.
- Keep a bucket in the shower to collect excess water. You can use this water to irrigate your plants.
- Check for and repair leaks in the tub diverter valve.

The City has low flow showerheads rated at 2.0 gpm and shower timers available. If you would like to get one, please email your information to [water@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:water@ci.benicia.ca.us). – *Public Works*

**REUSE & COMPOST EVENTS:** Republic Services (our local garbage company) announces the following events:

**Benicia ReUse RoundUp-**

**Saturday, August 22, 9:00 AM – 1:00PM**

Benicia Corporation Yard, 2400 East 2nd Street

Have your kids outgrown last year's school clothes? Is there clothing in your closet you haven't touched all year? Bring any gently-used clothing, sports equipment, costume jewelry, or small household items for reuse. Items will be donated to local non-profits for reuse or sale. No furniture, appliances, or electronics, please.



**REPUBLIC  
SERVICES**

**Worm Bin, Part 2-**

**Saturday, August 29, 9:00 – 11:00 AM**

Avant Community Garden, First & D Streets

I've got my worm bin going. Now what? Worm composting is using worms to recycle food scraps and other organic material. Learn how to keep your bin thriving and what to do with that wonderful vermicompost your worms have made. Special info on cover crops for the fall.

**Compost Giveaway-**

**Saturday, August 29, 12:00 – 3:00 PM**

Benicia Corporation Yard, 2400 E. 2nd Street

Bring your own container and we will fill it, up to 30 gallons per household. Please bring driver's license with Benicia address for each household. Benicia residents only.

Contact [Marie Knutsen](#), Recycling Representative with Republic Services with questions or to RSVP (drop-ins also welcome!) at 925.671.5814. – *City Manager's Office*

**ENTRIES SOUGHT FOR YOUTH ART CONTEST:** The California State Parks Foundation is running a fun, free Youth Art Contest with an entry deadline that has just been extended to **Sunday, September 30**.

CSPF's Youth Art Contest is intended to encourage young Californians to reflect on why state parks are important in their lives. All entries should reflect the theme "California's State Parks are Great Places for You & Me", a theme that CSPF has used in recent years to connect Californians on a personal level to their 279 state parks.

They are asking for youth submissions to the Youth Art Contest in the form of posters, and a panel of judges will select one top contest winner in each age category to win a prize package that includes a membership to CSPF, CSPF merchandise, and a \$50 gift card from

our contest partner, Subway. Winning posters will also be displayed on their website and featured in CSPF publications and media.

Information about the contest, including contest rules, guidelines, and a downloadable entry form, can be found on their [web site](#). - *Library*

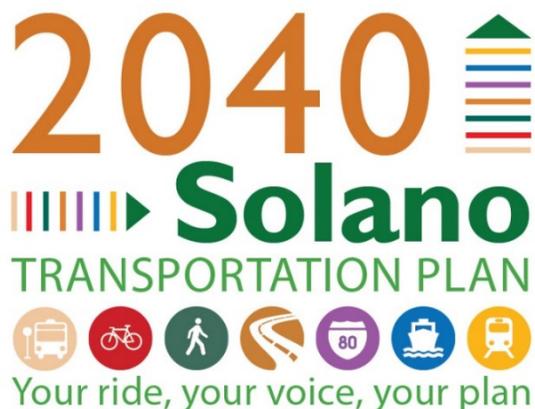


**INVITATION TO BIKE BRIDGE TO BRIDGE:** Enjoy a ride with our Congressman from District CA-5, U.S. Representative Mike Thompson, and other VIPs from our area, along with the Benicia Bicycle Club, as they cycle across the Benicia Bridge to the Carquinez Bridge via the George Miller Regional Trail along the Carquinez Strait.

Meet up on **Saturday, August 29**, at 8:30 AM at the First Street Green, First & B Street. The 25 mile ride will be moderate with frequent stops along the route. Helmets are required! Children under 18 years must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, contact Nancy Lund (ride leader) at [nslund@earthlink.net](mailto:nslund@earthlink.net) or Mel Orpilla at [mel.orpilla@mail.house.gov](mailto:mel.orpilla@mail.house.gov). – *City Manager's Office*

**COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN:** The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) is updating the [Solano Comprehensive Transportation Plan](#) with the goal of submitting the draft plan to the STA Board for approval before the end of 2015. The Comprehensive



Transportation Plan (CTP) identifies and prioritizes the transportation needs and funding throughout Solano County through the year 2040. In order to be eligible for regional, state or federal transportation funds, city project must be listed in the STA CTP. As part of the update process, STA is reaching out to communities in Solano County to receive input on the draft plan and STA's priorities.

STA will make a presentation before the Benicia Planning Commission at their **September 10** meeting at 7:00 PM in the Commission Room at City Hall. Input from members of the community is welcome and

encouraged. Please feel free to attend this meeting to see the presentation.

To find out more about the plan and to provide your input, go to [www.Solano2040.org](http://www.Solano2040.org). – *Community Development*

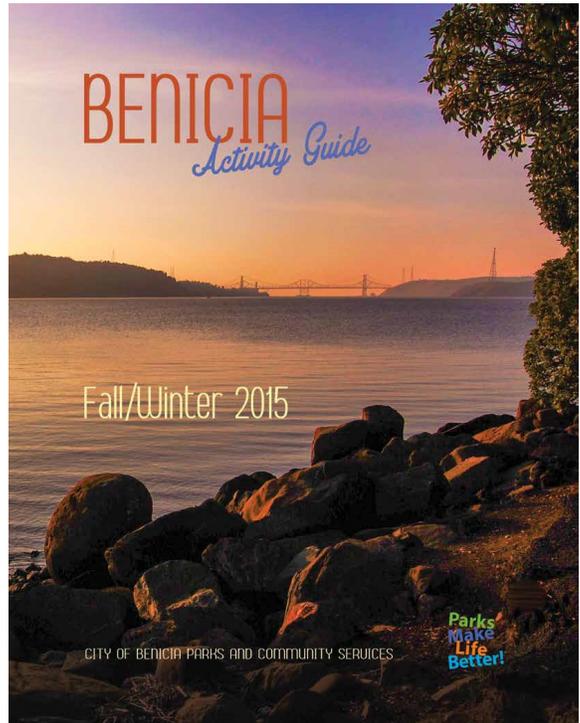
**VEHICLE SAFETY FAIR:** On July 18, the Benicia Police Department participated in New Harbor Church's Vehicle Safety Fair held at the church on East Second Street. At the event, which was open to the public, the Police Department had an information booth staffed by Community Service Officer Patti Baron, patrol volunteers and Explorers providing information on a variety of topics, including bicycle safety and child safety seats. – *Police Department*



**FALL ACTIVITY GUIDE:** The Parks & Community Services Fall/Winter 2015 Activity Guide has been mailed to every home and business in Benicia. If you didn't receive your copy, you can view it [online](#) at the City of Benicia website or pick up a copy at the City Manager's Office. Staff has received a lot of positive comments from residents on the new look and cover. Credit and thanks go to Recreation Supervisor Jill Wynn for her hard work and creativity on the guide. Special thanks goes to Recreation Leader Mae Long for allowing us to use her picture for the cover.

Many of your favorite instructors return to teach your favorite classes. Here is a sampling:

- Denise Larkin – Kindergym, Let's Play Ball, 5 & Under Gym
- Renee Day-Roa – Preschool Hip Hop, Preschool Princess
- Jo Nash – Little Ones Tap & Ballet, Babysitting Class, Gymnastics, YPPA & more
- Rem Djemilev's – Benicia Youth Orchestra
- Loa Kirkbride – Sewing Classes, ESL & more
- Coach Al – Just 4 Kicks Soccer
- Youth Basketball League
- Jeff Wong – Tennis
- Sandra Foster – Yoga Classes
- Northern California Judo
- Earl Hind – Tai Chi
- Sensei Rex Reade – Karate & Tae-Kwon-Do
- Susan Dodge – Line Dancing
- John Lathrop – Youth Water Polo
- Gretchen Filer – Bridge Club
- Christine Cooley – CPR & AED Classes
- Krystle Dilley – Senior Fitness Classes



Feedback has been really positive on NEW classes. Here is a sampling:

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chef Graham Wiles-Pearson – Variety of Cooking Classes for Kids &amp; Adults</li> <li>- Jessi Vera – Zumba Kids!</li> <li>- Anna Davis – Pregnancy Yoga</li> <li>- Diane Fontaine – Feldenkrais Method Awareness through Movement</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jennifer Barlow – Bare Workout</li> <li>- Charles Johnson – Effective Communication &amp; Leadership</li> <li>- Robert Harris – Watercolor the EZ Way</li> <li>- Jo Nash – Adult &amp; Senior Tap Class, Zumba Gold &amp; Pilates</li> <li>- Krystle Dilley – Beginning Balance &amp; Strengthening</li> </ul> |
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– Parks & Community Services

## PERSONNEL NEWS:

**Community Development Addition:** Community Development Director Christina Ratcliffe is pleased to announce the hiring of Dorothy Dickson-Dodds as the department's Administrative Secretary. Originally from Oklahoma, Dorothy has over 15 years of experience as an Administrative Secretary, 8½ of which was for a public agency. Dorothy will be performing secretarial and administrative duties, assisting in implementing Council goals and policies and taking minutes for Commission meetings, as well as being the first person people talk to for both Planning and Building divisions.



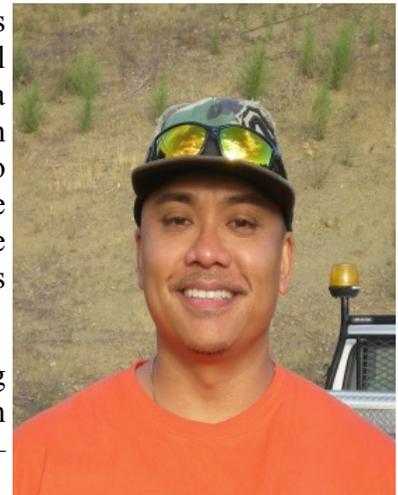
This welcome addition to the Community Development Department is an avid cyclist and backpacker. Please come by the counter to say "Hi!" and ask Dorothy about jumping out of a Boeing 747. – *Community Development*



**Police Department Addition:** Chief Erik Upson announces the hiring of the latest Public Safety Dispatcher, Sophia Pock. A nearly lifelong resident of the Bay Area, Sophia has an Associate's degree in Court Reporting and experience in customer service and mortgage lending. She was hired by Antioch Police Department as an entry level police dispatcher. She joins the Benicia Police Department after completing dispatch academy.

Sophia lives in the East Bay with her husband and three cats. – *Police Department*

**Public Works Addition:** Michael Fadrigo was recently hired as the new Public Works Field, Utilities & Street Apprentice. Michael Fadrigo grew up in Vallejo and comes to the City of Benicia as a former employee of the City of Vacaville. He lives in Fairfield with his wife and four children that range from college age to kindergarten. As a former mechanic and U.S. Postal carrier, he gained both technical and customer service skills which have helped to prepare him to work in a municipal Public Works department.



Michael enjoys spending time with his family, restoring automobiles, and woodworking. Public Works Director Graham Wadsworth is pleased to welcome Michael to his department. – *Public Works*

Please join me in welcoming Dorothy, Sophia and Michael to the City of Benicia family. – *City Manager*

**City of Benicia Job Opportunities:** The Human Resources Department is accepting applications for the following positions:

- [Library Technician I/II](#), full-time, closing **August 28**
- [Building Inspector I/II](#), full-time
- [Recreation Leader II](#), part-time, open continuously
- [Police Officer - Lateral \(Currently Working\)](#), full-time, open continuously
- [Police Officer - Academy / Non-Lateral](#), full-time, open continuously

To apply, the application and supplemental forms can be filed online at: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/benicia/default.cfm>. City of Benicia employment applications may also be obtained from and must be returned to the Human Resources Department at 250 East L Street, Benicia.



These job opportunities are open to any current City of Benicia employees (full or part time) as well as the general public. If you know of someone who may be interested in applying, please let them know. - *Human Resources*

**BEST PLACE TO START A SMALL BUSINESS:** Benicia was named one of the [Best Places to Start a Business in Northern California](#)! Coming in at #22 out of 177 cities, Benicia's unemployment was listed as 5.2%, but is currently at 3.7%. Rankings were based on Business Climate and Local Economic Health. Nerdwallet listed three takeaways:

- Large and small business perform well evidenced by the location of several Fortune 500 companies (Oracle, Google, Facebook, etc.) and the state network of [Small Business Development Centers](#).
- Bay Area is key as the economic epicenter.
- Tourism matters, too. Technology drives Northern California's economy, but tourism is important.

Nerdwallet.com's assessment of Benicia's favorable statistics has again highlighted why Benicia is a great place to live and work. Their other lists include:



[Top Cities for Veterans in 2015](#), June 2015

[Best School Districts for Your Buck in California](#), March 2015

[Best Cities to Rent, Not Buy, in the San Francisco Bay Area](#), January 2015

[Best Cities for Young Families in Northern California](#), October 2014

[Most Innovative Local Government Initiatives in California](#), October 2014

[Cities on the Rise in California-Full Ranking](#), May 2014

- *Economic Development*

**CALL TO ARTISTS – SOLTRANS PUBLIC ART WORK:** Solano County Transit (SolTrans) is requesting local artists to apply to create original artwork to be installed on the front entrance wall and in other public areas throughout the SolTrans Operations and Maintenance Building located at 1850 Broadway Street in Vallejo.



This opportunity is limited to artists living in Vallejo and Benicia. If there is not sufficient response to this call to artists, Soltrans reserves the right to expand its reach beyond the borders of Vallejo and Benicia. [Click here](#) to see the details in the Call To Artist request. For more

information, contact [Suzanne Thorsen](#) at 707.648.4666. – *City Manager's Office*

**FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:** The Benicia Fire Department monthly report for July 2015 is now available. It contains information about Emergency Operations, Training, and Prevention. [Click here](#) to read more. – *Fire Department*



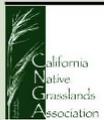
**NEW FRONT YARD WORKSHOP:** Benicia residents are invited to a workshop on front yard replacement. *California's New Front Yard: Creating a Low-Water Landscape* will teach you how to transform your thirsty lawn into a water-saving landscape featuring drought-tolerant trees, native grasses, perennials, and shrubs.



Photo by Pete Velleux, East Bay Wilds

**California's New Front Yard: Creating a Low-Water Landscape**

Transform your thirsty lawn into a water-saving landscape featuring drought-tolerant trees, native grasses, perennials, and shrubs. Morning talks are followed by hands-on activities and demonstrations. This workshop is suitable for homeowners and landscape professionals alike, so all are welcome!



**Thursday, October 1, 2015**

**8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
8:00 a.m. Coffee and networking

**Fairfield Community Center**  
1000 Kentucky St. Fairfield, CA 94533



Expert instructors will present step-by-step methods of design, plant selection, lawn removal, and irrigation best practices to make the most out of every drop!

**Speakers include:**

- Andrew Fulks, Assistant Director, UC Davis Arboretum
- Sarah Sutton, Landscape Architect and author of *The New American Front Yard: Kiss Your Grass Goodbye!*
- Emily Allen, Sales Manager, Hedgerow Farms
- Chris Rose, Executive Director, Solano County Resource Conservation District
- Matt Forrest, Grounds Supervisor, UC Davis Grounds and Landscape Services



**Thursday, October 1**

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Fairfield Community Center

1000 Kentucky Street, Fairfield

Sponsored by the California Native Grasslands Association, the fee is \$25/members, \$30/non-members. [Click here](#) to register and find more information. – *City Manager's Office*

**LOCAL DROUGHT BATTLE GETS TELEVISION COVERAGE:** Public Works Director Graham Wadsworth and City of Benicia Public Works crews were recently featured in a piece by KTVU-2 on the use old technology by the City of Benicia to look for leaks in our battle against the drought. [Click here](#) to view the short video. – *Public Works*



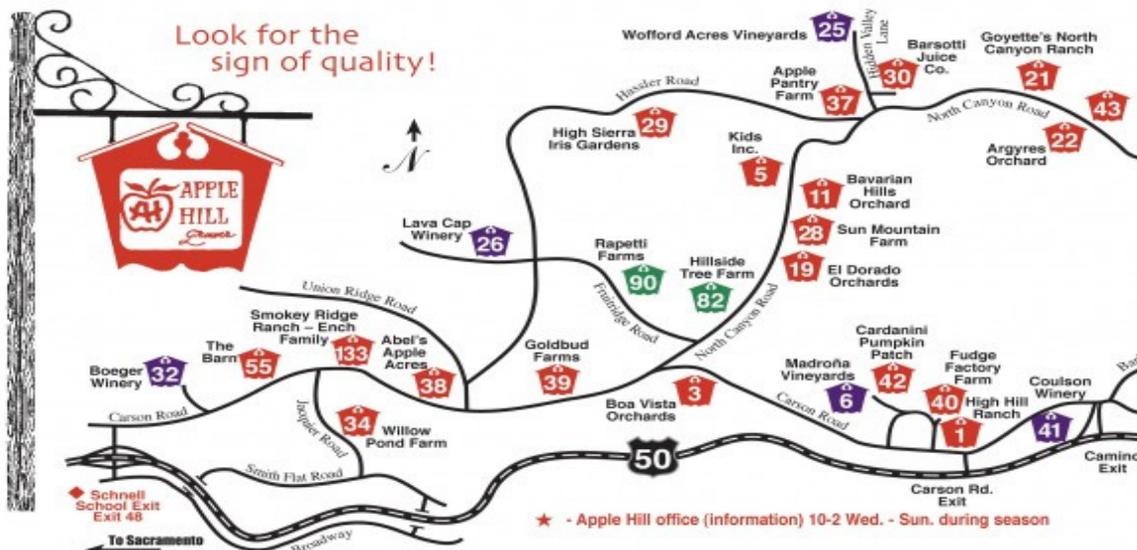
**LOCAL DAY TRIPS ANNOUNCED:** The Parks & Community Services Department has teamed up with American State Tours to sponsor local day trips this fall. Don't miss this great opportunity to visit local favorite locations. You will travel stress free in a beautiful bus without a worry about driving or parking. All trips leave from the Benicia Senior Center parking lot.

Advanced registration is required. Register at the Benicia Senior Center or the Benicia Community Center. Please contact Recreation Supervisor Lindsay Dion with any questions at 707.746.4771 or [ldion@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:ldion@ci.benicia.ca.us).

**Apple Hill**  
**Thursday, October 15**  
 \$65 per Person  
 Times: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

**Sonoma – Holiday Sweet & Goodies**  
**Monday, November 16**  
 \$70 per Person\*  
 Times: 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM  
 \*Lunch included at Fruit Yard Restaurant  
 - *Parks & Community Services*

**Cache Creek Casino**  
**Tuesday, November 3**  
 \$27 per Person  
 Times: 9:00 AM - 4:45 PM



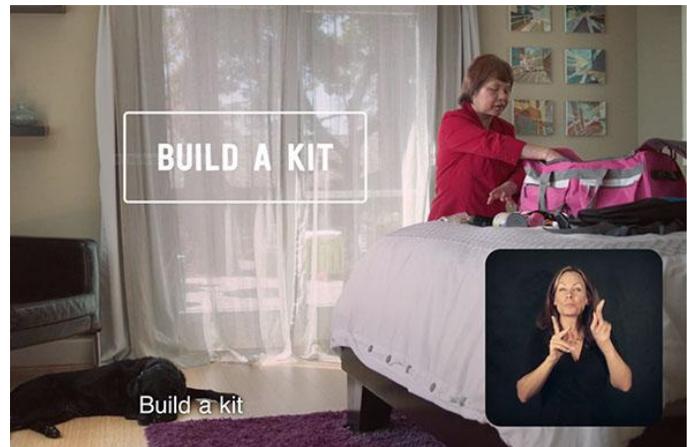


**POLICE VOLUNTEERS AT WORK:** At the annual Benicia Peddler’s Fair on August 8, the Benicia Police Department had an information booth staffed by Community Service Officer Patti Baron and police volunteers. The volunteers passed out free coloring books and sticker badges to children attending, as well as a number of informational brochures for the public. In addition, patrol volunteers assisted with traffic control throughout the day and opening up the street at the end of the event. – *Police Department*

**EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS REMINDER:** Did you feel the earthquake on the morning of August 17? It was at 6:49 AM, a 4.0 centered 1M north of Piedmont. Although there were no reports of public or private damage, it serves as a reminder to be ready for a big quake in our area.

Check out [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for info on preparing or freshening your supplies to be ready to spend up to three days on your own.

Be informed, make a plan, build a kit. – *City Manager’s Office*



**BENICIA SENIOR CENTER CELEBRATES NATIONAL SENIOR CITIZENS DAY:** On Wednesday, August 19, Benicia Senior Center celebrated National Senior Citizens Day with a free ice cream social. Approximately sixty seniors celebrated with City of Benicia Vice Mayor Mark Hughes (shown at right) helping scoop the ice cream sundaes. Recreation Supervisor Lindsay Dion organized the event and set up a delicious ice cream bar with all the fixings. It was a wonderful event for all who attended. – *Parks & Community Services*



**END OF SUMMER CARNIVAL:** The End of Summer Carnival is a summer favorite with kids, parents and staff. On Tuesday, August 4, several hundred people attended the carnival at the Benicia Community Center field. Participants enjoyed an inflatable bounce house, obstacle course, inflatable slide, sack races, face painting and free popcorn.

The Carnival is the end of summer activity for Adventures Day Camp and K2. They had a great summer. The camps started the first week of June and continues until school begins the last week of August. Adventures Day Camp (ADC) is for grades 1 – 5. K2 Camp is for grades 6 – 8. This summer, ADC averaged about 164 campers per session and K2 averaged about 45 campers per session (six sessions).

Campers had the option to attend great field trips, including Safari West – Santa Rosa, Six Flags Discovery Kingdom – Vallejo, California Academy of Sciences – San Francisco, Sky High – Concord, and Waterworld – Concord.

The Parks & Community Services Department would like to give a very special thank you to their team of dedicated part-time staff who work hard to provide a safe, fun and rewarding camp experience for the children. You may have seen them in the red staff shirts all over the downtown walking the campers to lunch at City Park or to swim at the James Lemos Swim Center. The Recreation staff are an amazing collection of talent (many are former campers) who were selected to spend their summer giving back to the community by creating lifelong memories for our campers. – *Parks & Community Services*



**MARIJUANA SUMMIT:** Benicia Police Department's Youth Action Coalition is sponsoring its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual *Substance Abuse Summit: Today's Marijuana* on **Thursday, September 10** at the Benicia Clocktower.

This informational summit brings together drug prevention coalition leaders, law enforcement officers, and community leaders throughout the Bay Area to discuss topics related to marijuana and the latest trends and tactics being faced today.

The Summit is co-sponsored by the National Guard HIDTA, CADFY, SAM and Northern California Regional Intelligence Center. The Youth Action Coalition is honored to sponsor this invitation only event and provide the high level of speakers. – *Police Department*

**Benicia Youth Action Coalition**  
*Presents the*

## **1st Annual Substance Abuse Summit:**



**TODAY'S MARIJUANA**



**With Special Guest Speakers:**

**MIKE SENA,**

**Director of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)**

**JOHN REDMAN, Project Sam**

**ED MOSES, Midwest Counterdrug Training Center, and more.**

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### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**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**