

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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SEPTEMBER 3, 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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### **H**ELPFUL HINT FOR WATER CONSERVATION: We received this helpful hint:

As a mother of two teen boys, we were having a huge problem with the boys taking long showers. I'm talking 20-30 minutes!

Solution: We put a plug in the shower before each shower to track how much water each person was using per shower. Then we put some blue masking tape at the "4-minute shower" water line. The goal then became who could take the fastest shower, measured by the masking tape getting lower and lower. Our boys are extremely competitive. The result: Shorter showers, water and money saved.



What's your helpful hint? Send it to [water@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:water@ci.benicia.ca.us) and let us know if we can use your name. You might just see it in a future edition of the City Manager's Report. – *Public Works*

### **C**ITIZENS' ACADEMY SET TO BEGIN: Sign-ups are still being accepted for the annual Citizens' Government Academy. Registration is free and open to Benicia residents over 16 years of age.

The first session begins on **Wednesday, September 16** and continues in two-hour sessions each Wednesday evening through November 17. Learn more about City departments and how your city functions. For more information on the academy, contact Library Director Diane Smikahl at [dsmikahl@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:dsmikahl@ci.benicia.ca.us) or call 707.746.4323. - *Library*

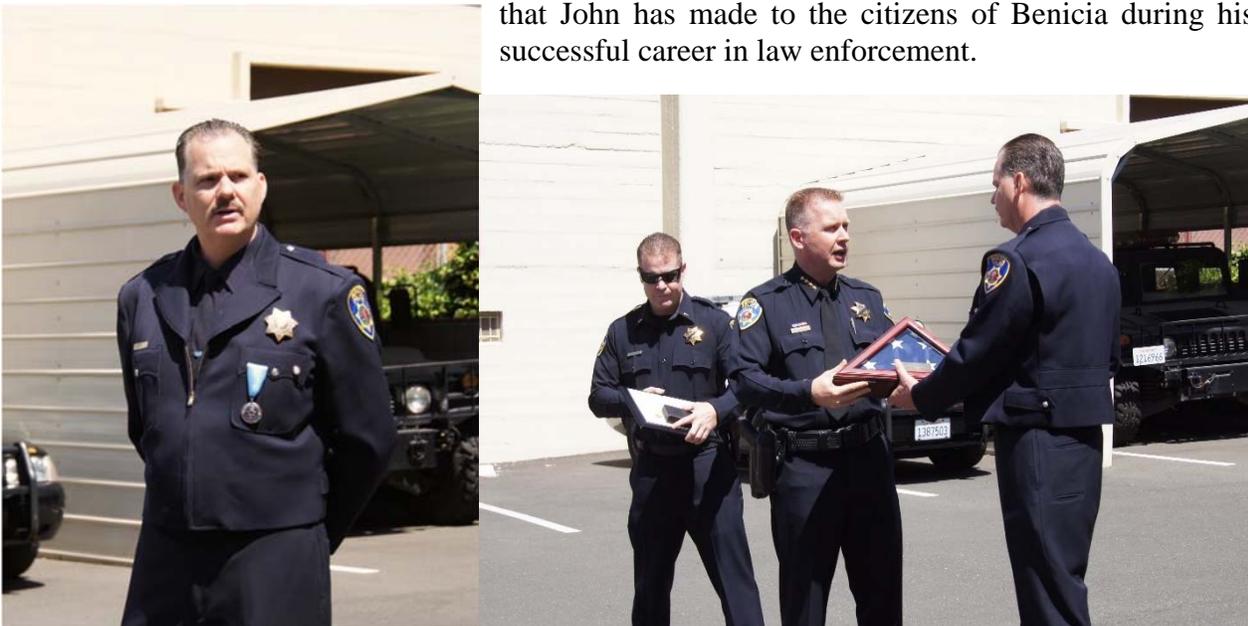


## PERSONNEL NEWS:

**Fond Farewell:** After almost 30 years of service to the Benicia Police Department, Officer John McFadden has retired. A native Benician, John began his career as a 16-year-old Benicia Police Explorer Cadet.

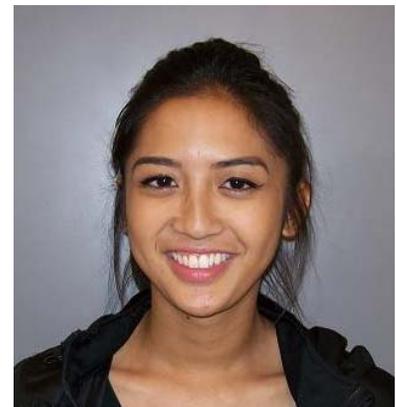
A ceremony was held at the Police Department on Thursday, July 23, to recognize John's many achievements. Chief Upson presented John with a City flag and recognized him with a Community Policing Medal for his dedication and commitment to the citizens of Benicia. Mayor Elizabeth Patterson also recognized John with a Proclamation, and Benicia Police Officers Association recognized John's 30 years of service as a Police Officer with a beautiful engraved plaque.

John's wife Claire, sons Zach and Alex, and his in-laws attended the ceremony. His friends and colleagues (past and present) were also in attendance to acknowledge the contributions that John has made to the citizens of Benicia during his successful career in law enforcement.



You may still see John driving around on patrol as he has agreed to work per diem in his spare time. – *Police Department*

**New Hire:** Chief Erik Upson is pleased to announce the hiring of Officer Angela Maniego. Angela has a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Cal State East Bay and has interned at the San Mateo County Coroner's Office in Investigations and Pathology. Her prior experience includes being a sworn investigator for the Department of Motor Vehicles in Alameda County, including Oakland, Hayward, and Fremont. She comes to the Benicia Police Department after graduating from the Napa Valley Police Academy.



The youngest of three sisters, Angela enjoys video production and playing basketball. Angela's first day on the job will be Monday, September 14. – *Police Department*

Please join me in welcoming Angela and wishing John well in his well-deserved retirement.  
– *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 **September 4**
- [Public Services Librarian I/II \(Children’s Librarian\)](#), full-time, closing **September 9**
- [Recreation Leader II](#), part-time, open continuously
- [Recreation Supervisor](#), full-time, open continuously
- [Seasonal Park Worker](#), part-time
- [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*

**FILM FESTIVAL THIS WEEKEND:** Sponsored by the City of Benicia Arts and Culture Commission, the second annual Benicia Film Festival runs **Friday, September 4** through **Sunday, September 8**. The event features shorts, documentaries, animated, and international films. Exciting locations are a big feature of this year’s event:

- Friday, 7:00 PM, Gala at the Commanding Officer’s Quarters
- Saturday, 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM, Films at the Hayley Horn Auditorium at BHS
- Sunday, 12:00 – 5:00 PM, Films at the Majestic Theatre in downtown Benicia



Tickets are available [online](#), at the Library, and at Benicia Main Street. Go to [www.BeniciaFilmFestival.com](http://www.BeniciaFilmFestival.com) for more information and a full schedule of films. – *Library*



**POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:** The Benicia Police Department monthly report for July is now available. It contains a monthly wrap-up of Community Services, Professional Development, Statistics, and Interesting Case Summaries. [Click here](#) to read more. – *Police Department*

**HOLIDAY CLOSURE:** Benicia City Offices, the Benicia Community Center and the Benicia Public Library will be closed **Monday, September 7** in observance of Labor Day.

Requests for emergency water and sewer service may be made at the Benicia Police Department, 200 East L Street or 707.745.3411. – *City Manager's Office*



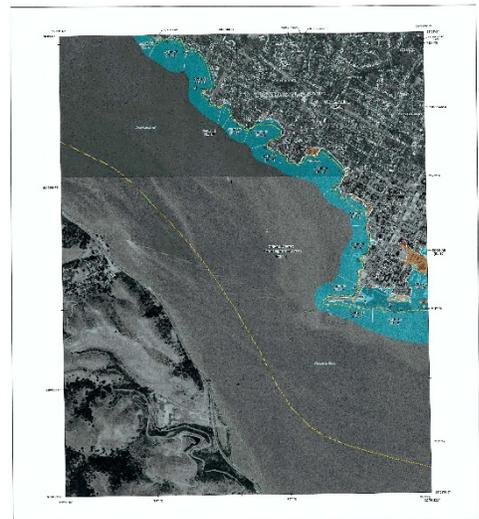
**SENIOR SPEAKER SERIES:** The next events in the 2015 Senior Speaker Series is set for **Thursday, September 17**, 10:30-11:15 AM, in the Dona Benicia Room at Benicia Public Library. Frances Harkins, Certified Financial Planner, North Capitol, Inc. will speak on *Smart Strategies for Managing Your Money*.



Sponsored by the Carquinez Village Project and Benicia Public Library, the Senior Speaker Series on the third Thursday of the month at 10:30 AM and is free to attend.

The October event will feature *Games and Activities to Strengthen Your Memory* by Kristen Einberger, author of *Strengthen Your Mind*. These events are free. – *Library*

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR INPUT:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is changing the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). FEMA is acting under direction of Congress to update maps nationwide as part of FEMA's Risk MAP initiative which is intended to reduce loss of property and life due to flooding. The proposed maps were prepared by FEMA and distributed to the City. Letters were sent to all property owners affected by the map update and an open house was held on July 8, 2015 where staff from FEMA and the City of Benicia were present to provide information and respond to questions.



The new maps were released on June 10, 2015 for a 90-day public review and appeal period ending **September 7** and are expected to take effect in summer of 2016. Appeals are technical challenges to the base flood elevation (elevation to which floodwater is anticipated to rise during the "100-year flood.") or floodplain boundary only. Challenges to the base flood elevation require supporting technical data, such as an elevation certificate prepared by a licensed surveyor or civil engineer.

More information on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps are available on the [City's website](#). Anyone wishing to file an appeal should contact the City's Public Works Department at 707.746.4240. – *Community Development*

**GOLF TOURNAMENT SCHEDULED:** The Benicia Police Officers & Dispatchers Association's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for **Friday, November 13.**



Get a foursome together and join them for a fun day at Eagle Vines Vineyard and Golf Club. If you can't get a foursome together but want to play, they can team you up. If you don't play or are not very good, you can still come out, it's a team scramble format, so anyone can play.

You can also help to support the tournament by providing a sponsorship, raffle prize, and passing along the tournament information. – *Police Department*

**T**RAINING FOR SMALL RETAIL BUSINESS OWNERS: UC Berkeley's Labor Occupational Health Program, in partnership with [Cal/OSHA](#), is offering free trainings for businesses on how to develop and implement an effective health and safety program that meets the Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) standard. The IIPP standard

is the #1 most often cited Cal/OSHA violation when inspectors visit California workplaces. The upcoming IIPP training is scheduled for Monday, September 14 in Vacaville. This is a free half-day class designed to help small retail business owners and managers create or improve their health and safety program.

Participants will learn about:

- Meeting Cal/OSHA expectations and requirements
- including strategies to prevent workplace violence
- involving employees in your health and safety program.

**WHEN:**

**Monday, September 14** from 1:00-5:00 PM

**WHERE:**

State Compensation Insurance Fund  
 First Floor, Whitney Conference Room  
 1030 Vaquero Circle  
 Vacaville, CA 95688

**RSVP:** [www.lohp.org/iipp](http://www.lohp.org/iipp) for more info and to RSVP.

- *Economic Development*



## CALTRANS CONSTRUCTION PROJECT:

Caltrans is working on two improvement projects in our area. The Interstate-680 (I-680) Solano Rehabilitation Project will rehabilitate and repave approximately 13 miles of northbound and southbound I-680 between Fairfield and Benicia. The project will resurface the roadway, repair the existing median metal guardrails, and roadway lighting along this section of I-680. The project limits are in Solano County on southbound and northbound I-680 from the I-680/I-80 interchange to the Benicia Bridge. It is tentatively scheduled for completion in early 2016.



Caltrans continues a major pavement repair project on Interstate 780 (I-780) in Solano County. The work includes overlay and major pavement repair of seven miles of westbound and eastbound I-780 between Benicia and Vallejo. Although no full highway closures are scheduled at this time, motorists may experience delays as crews work on I-780 with intermittent, overnight, alternating ramp and lane closures. Specific ramp closure and detour signs will be posted. All work is weather permitting. Project will be completed as early as November 2015.

To find updates on both projects and information on current road conditions, go to <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/>. – *City Manager's Office*

**RUN FOR YOUR CITY:** SOFITCITY is a regional walk/run series to build healthier communities and fitter kids. Each city competes with neighboring city teams for the greatest number of runners and the distinction of 'Fittest City' in the region. All new and first-time runners are welcome!

SFC is the only city-ranking race based purely on participation, and every resident counts. It's not about speed – it's about showing up and crossing the finish line.

**When:** Saturday, September 26, 8:00AM

**Where:** Solano Town Center, 1350 Travis Blvd, Fairfield

**Distance:** 5K. 10K. Family Mile



Register online at [www.SOFITCITY.com](http://www.SOFITCITY.com) or in-person at 24Hr Fitness in Fairfield, Group X Fitness Vallejo, Run House in Benicia, Gold's Gym Vacaville. See [facebook.com/SOFITCITY](https://www.facebook.com/SOFITCITY) for dates.

Sponsored by Kaiser Permanente, Solano Town Center, City of Fairfield, the Children's Network of Solano County and Lucky Rabbit Events. – *City Manager*

**DID YOU KNOW?** The City of Benicia Building Division [web site](#) has sample site plans and other helpful information for planning your home improvement project. You can find information on energy conservation & green building, adding accessory buildings, the building permit process, patios & decks, swimming pool & spas, window & door replacement, seismic upgrades, and do-it-yourself construction.



Find information online or stop by Monday-Friday, 8:30-9:30AM and 1:00-2:00PM or by appointment. They're located on the lower level at City Hall, 250 East L Street. – *Community Development*

## **BACKPACK DRIVE A SUCCESS:** Our Benicia students are back to school. Mixed emotions



abound as children young and old venture into a new classroom, carrying their memories of summer as well as their backpacks stuffed with new school supplies.

Thanks to the Benicia Family Resource Center's annual Backpack Drive, over 30 students in Benicia were provided backpacks stuffed with supplies, each totaling approximately \$50 in value. The Benicia Moms Group donated 30

backpacks along with a large quantity of supplies. Our fantastic citizens and employees of Benicia worked together to give over 500 items to stuff the backpacks. We wish to thank everyone who donated including generous monetary donations from the Benicia Public Service Employees Association (BPSEA) and the Benicia Police Officers Association (BPOA).

Being able to assist families and see the relief they experience combined with the pure joy that these kids have when getting handed a backpack is just amazing. The Family Resource Center (FRC) backpack drive will continue to benefit Benicia students throughout the 2015-2016 school year. The FRC is extremely grateful for the support of our wonderful community!!



What's next for FRC? They will be collecting for their annual Pajama Drive. So if you're out shopping and see a great deal, stock up for when the drive is announced in early October. – *Police Department*

**UPDATE FROM PUBLIC WORKS:** Here is a look at what the Public Works Department was up to this past month. Maybe they were in your neighborhood?

**Maintenance - Sewer:**

- **Customer Service Calls** - 300 West J Street, 800 East 5th Street, 100 East D Street, 1300 West L Street Alley, 100 Vista Grande Avenue, 100 Linda Vista, 2000 Via Alta, 400 East N Street Alley, 1800 Buena Tiera, 1100 West K Street, 400 East N Street, 300 East J Street, 300 East I Street Alley, 500 East L Street, 400 Sandy Way, 1100 Church Street.
- **City Wide Cleanings** - Service calls 2,071 feet, Scheduled 6,280 feet and top-down cleaning 11,794 feet. Total sewer lines cleaned 20,145 feet or 3.8 miles. The Department's goal is to clean 40 miles of the 153 mile system every year.
- **Lift Station Cleaning** - Park Road, El Bonita and Van's Station on West 8th Street were three out of the 23 City Stations that received cleaning maintenance in the month of July.
- **Repairs and Improvements** - In the alley above the 1300 block of West L Street two sections of six-inch clay sewer main were replaced due to root intrusion and joint offsets. Two segments of pipe in the alley below the 400 block of East O Street were also replaced. These repairs were also due to offsets and root intrusion in six-inch clay pipe. In a follow up to a back-up, Maintenance discovered a failed section of sewer main on 100 block of Vista Grande. The site was marked for underground locating services and 10 feet of six-inch pipe was replaced to repair the utility. In another effort to reduce quarterly maintenance cleanings on Linda Vista, a section of main was replaced due to root intrusion.

**Maintenance – Streets/Water:**

- **Water Distribution Crew** - Water leak repairs for July: Service lines replaced on Grant Street. Removed 12" valve and replaced with C-900 PVC Pipe. Repaired 8" water main at 600 Snapdragon. Repaired 6" water main at 1200 Bayshore Road. Repaired 6" water main at 100 Channel Road. Replaced hydrant at 900 Southampton Road. Replaced 3" meter at 1200 Bayshore Road. Replaced 3" water meter at 500 Willow Court. Replaced service line at 700 Carsten Way. Replaced service line at 700 Carsten Way. Repaired 8" water main at 200 East G Street. Replaced service line at 2100 Goldenhill. Replaced service line at 600 West I Street. Replaced service line at 400 Sandy Way. Replaced service line on La Cruz. Completed monthly meter reading and scheduled turnoffs.
- **Street Crew** - Painted street legends in school zones, 1300 West 2nd Street, removed tree roots and repaved, skim patched 300 East N Street. Laid base rock down for Tourtelot cyclone fencing at McAllister Land Bridge. Cleared beaver cage in front of drain inlet at McAllister Land Bridge. Cleaned V-ditch between Palace Court and Hasting Drive. Performed weed abatement at East 2nd Street to Lake Herman Road. Special Events setup for July 3<sup>rd</sup> parade and Farmers market.

Over the past four weeks, City maintenance water crews have repaired over 20 water mains and service lines saving the City tens of thousands of dollars by making the repairs in house. Here is an example of the technical, competent and tireless work recently performed by our crews. The first photo is of excavation of the water main break before repair. The leak was from a two inch hole in a 12" asbestos cement pipe that was installed by the U.S. Army over 70 years ago.



*Jeff Henning (left); Nick Wilson at right installing 12" valve 10 feet underground.*

### **Wastewater Treatment Plant:**

- Projects for July: Staff started and finished for the month of July working on the Plant's Belt press conveyer motor, and installed a new valve in the backup excess methane flame system. The bacteria in digester tanks are used to treat waste at the Plant and create methane gas, which is used to heat the digester. Using methane gas to heat the digester reduces the amount of natural gas purchased from P.G.&E. or MCE and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.



- Staff also installed a new flow meter in the pipe system going to our Rotating Biological Contractors (RBC's) trains.



**Wastewater Treatment Plant - Maintenance:**

- Staff performed 64 preventive maintenance tasks as well as closing out 5 corrective maintenance work orders.

**WWTP Plant performance:**

- The Plant processed 66.43 million gallons of raw wastewater with no Permit exceedances.
- Nutrient pollution removal; Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) = 99. % Total Suspended Solids (TSS) = 99. %
- The Effluent Acute Bioassay testing had a 95 % Survival rate.

- *Public Works*

**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:

- **Jamal Watters Optimal Level Therapeutic Services** – 1350 Hayes Street, Ste A-5AA, owner: Jamal Watters
- **Carter's Biz Cafes** – 1 Commandants Lane, owner: Carter Rankin
- **Terese Arntson** – 129 First Street #F, owner: Terese Arntson
- **Montana Motorsports** – 5380 Gateway Plaza, owner: Chris Montana
- **Carla Goad, MFT** – 1440 Military West #103, owner: Carla Goad

- *Economic Development*



**CONCERNED ABOUT COYOTES?** The Benicia Police Department, in conjunction with the Humane Society of the United States, has information on their webpage on the [best practices approach](#) to coyote management and coexistence in dealing with coyotes in urban areas.



If you happen to see or have contact with a coyote, please report the contact by completing the [Coyote Incident Report Form](#). You may email the completed form to [police@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:police@ci.benicia.ca.us) or mail it to Benicia Police Department, 200 East L Street, Benicia, CA 94510. – *Police Department*

**DID YOU KNOW?** Heating water can account for 14 to 25 percent of the energy consumed in your home. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F) and save energy (and avoid a surprise faucet-scalding), or think about replacing it with a tankless water heater that heats only on demand. – *Community Development*



**HELP FOR BUSINESSES:** The newly launched California Business Portal is the on-line one-stop-shop for business owners (and potential business owners). It provides information on starting a new business, permits and licenses, incentives, and local resources. Key features include a Quick Start Guide, California Business Navigator, and Service Desk to answer commonly asked questions. If the information for a particular situation is not posted, submit your question and GO-Biz will provide a customized answer. Find out more at [www.BusinessPortal.CA.Gov](http://www.BusinessPortal.CA.Gov).

What is GO-Biz? The California Governor's Office of Economic and Business Development. – *Economic Development*



**RELAY FOR LIFE UPDATE:** The Police Department participated in the American Cancer Society, 18 hour Relay for Life on August 21-22 at Benicia High School. The Police Officers Association and the Dispatchers Association were Bronze Sponsors raising over \$1,000 for the event. At their booth, they provided valuable educational brochures and giveaways encouraging youth and adults not to use tobacco and breast cancer awareness. The Police Department also provided a fun K9 demonstration with Officer Kirk Keffer and his partner Bak. – *Police Department*



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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**