

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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SEPTEMBER 16, 2013

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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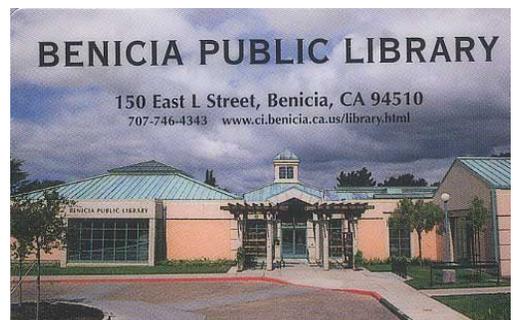
**BENEFITS OF DRIVING ELECTRIC VEHICLES TO BE CELEBRATED AT BENICIA'S NATIONAL PLUG IN DAY PHOTO GATHERING:** Electric vehicle drivers, enthusiasts, and intrigued local residents are invited to attend Benicia's Plug In Day Photo Gathering at City Hall (250 E L Street) on **September 24** at 10:30AM to highlight the fun, clean-air benefits and cost-savings of electric cars, as part of the third annual National Plug In Day.

The hope in Benicia is to gather as many plug in drivers as possible for a short photo opportunity and demonstration in front of City Hall. Benicia's gathering is one of more than 60 across the country where electric vehicle owners and their neighbors will hold electric car parades, "tailpipe-free" tailgate parties, recognize leaders promoting EVs, launch new public EV charging stations, and other public events.



For more information about Benicia's Plug In Day and the location of city charging stations, visit: [SustainableBenicia.org](http://SustainableBenicia.org) or contact Alex Porteshawver, [APorteshawver@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:APorteshawver@ci.benicia.ca.us). For a complete list of National Plug In Day events, visit: <http://www.pluginday.org>. - *Community Development*

**LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH:** September is [Library Card Sign-Up Month](#) - a time when the American Library Association and libraries across the country remind parents that the most important school supply of all is @ your library® - it's your library card. September was first so designated as Library Card Sign-up Month in 1988, as a continuation of a national campaign launched the previous year. Come visit your library for a free library card or sign up online and find some of the treasures that are in our Benicia Public Library. - *Library*



**TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY:** International Talk Like a Pirate Day is Thursday, **September 19**. Shiver me timbers! Are you ready for it? If not, try [Mango Languages](#). Mango Languages now has 69 language courses and 21 English as a Second Language courses available online, plus 10 languages for kids called Little Pim. One of the top five favorite languages available is: PIRATE! Log in with your Benicia Library Card and select Pirate! Blow me down! Don't forget to try their [mobile app](#), too.



Any buccaneer to enter a participating Krispy Kreme and talk like a pirate gets one FREE Original Glazed® doughnut. To the landlubber who dares to wear full pirate attire goes a bounty of one FREE dozen Original Glazed doughnuts. Offer good on International Talk Like a Pirate Day, September 19, only, at participating US and Canadian locations (excludes Puerto Rico and CT).

Locally, Pizza Pirate in Solano Square is celebrating all day on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Get a FREE small pizza (1 topping) with the purchase of any large pizza, plus e a FREE "Talk like a Pirate" button, while supplies last. So start practicing your best Pirate talk!! – *Library*

**FREE BUSINESS TRAINING:** Attention artists, craftsmen, retailers, small business owners, non-profits, and business-to-business owners, this is a reminder of the **FREE** business training:

**Tuesday, September 24  
8:30-11:00 AM  
Benicia Community Center  
370 East L Street**

Focusing on creating a marketing campaign, the session begins with [Grow Your Business with Email & Social Media](#). Participants will receive a *free workbook* to use to create a marketing campaign on the spot. This will be helpful in preparing for holiday promotions and promotions throughout the year.

The session continues with [Getting Started with Email](#), a refreshers on creating an email, selecting templates, loading lists and branding your emails, creating a professional look and feel, linking to websites and social media sites, and adding links to subscribe to your newsletter or join your email list.

Additional information and registration is available [online](#) or contact [Teri Davena](#) at 707.746.4202. – *Economic Development*



**COASTAL CLEANUP DAY IS SATURDAY:** Team up with our schools for the largest volunteer day on the planet and help keep Benicia's waterfront and waterways beautiful on Saturday, September 21, from 9:00AM-Noon. Come to any site:

- St. Dominic's School**  
West 6<sup>th</sup> Street – Bordoni Park
- Semple Elementary**  
Foot of First Street
- Joe Henderson Elementary**  
Benicia State Park –Main Parking Lot
- Mary Farmer Elementary**  
West 9th Street Beach
- Matthew Turner Elementary**  
West 12th Street Beach
- Community Groups**  
Willow Glen Creek (near Taco Bell)  
East Second Street  
West Third Street Beach
- Benicia High School**  
Park Road at Industrial Way
- Liberty High School**  
LeveeTrail
- Benicia Middle School**  
Benicia State Park-Picnic area



A picnic at Ninth Street Beach for all participants starts at Noon. Please help eliminate waste by bringing your own bag and gloves. For more information call Sue Frost Alfeld, Coordinator, 707.980.1895 or Brad Harms, City of Benicia 707.746.4337, or visit [CoastalCleanupDay.org](http://CoastalCleanupDay.org) – *Public Works*

**VACANCY UPDATE ON BIP:** Good news on the real estate front comes to us from Colliers International, commercial real estate brokers. Collier's Fairfield office, which covers Solano, Napa and parts of Contra Costa counties, recently released market reports that indicate the industrial and office markets in Solano and Napa counties experienced the greatest vacancy decline in several years in the second quarter of 2013.

The industrial vacancy rate declined to 8.7 percent, a 1.7 percent point drop from the previous quarter and a 3.4 percent point drop from a year ago. The office vacancy rate declined 1.3 percentage points from 25.5 to 24.2 percent in the second quarter. Locally, the total direct vacancy rate in the Benicia Industrial Park is 11.7%, down from 15.3% the previous quarter.



Lease and sales activity included the lease of 122Ksq/ft at 539 Stone Road by Santa Clara Warehouse and 64,238sq/ft at 601 Stone Road by FedEx Corporation, and the sale of 7,470sq/ft at 4690 East Second Street by Rock Path, LLC. – *Economic Development*

**JOIN TEAM BENICIA:** [SOFITCITY](#) on **September 28** is a regional walk/run series created to motivate entire cities toward a healthier lifestyle. With the support of city officials, schools, churches, non-profit and for-profit entities, each city becomes a team to compete with neighboring city teams for the distinction of ‘Fittest City’ in the region.



**Why SOFITCITY?** While there are annual fittest city rankings, SOFITCITY is a ranking determined by each individual’s effort to walk or run for their own health, thereby creating a ripple effect for health throughout a county. Like a vote, this civic health campaign unites all body types, and all fitness levels. It’s not about speed – it’s about participation and everybody counts! Take the challenge!

**Benefits?** Together. It’s a powerful word and an even deeper concept that suggests teamwork. The first SOFITCITY took place in Solano County, where seven cities embarked on a mission to become healthier and fitter by making each city a team. Funds from SOFITCITY support local non-profits and foundations that represent education, fitness and health, as they are interlocking concepts for change. The original SOFITCITY continues to support the Solano County Library Foundation as it represents the community and educational center for over 400,000 residents. Funds are also allotted for smaller organizational support, community gardens, and school mileage clubs etc.

For more information on Team Benicia, go to [www.facebook.com/beniciafit](http://www.facebook.com/beniciafit) or [www.SOFITCITY.com](http://www.SOFITCITY.com) – *Library*

**BPD INTRODUCES NEWEST OFFICER:** Benicia Police Department announced the hiring of its newest Police Officer, Armando Sanchez. Armando was raised in the City of Vallejo and graduated from Sacramento State University with a Bachelors of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He attended the Santa Rosa Public Safety Police Academy and upon graduation, was ranked second overall. While at the police academy Armando received the 4-Way Test Award. This award was voted on by his academy peers and is given to the student who most demonstrated themselves as Recognizing, Outstanding, Professional and Ethical.



Armando is proud of his Mexican American heritage and his bilingual skills will no doubt benefit the community and be beneficial to the Benicia Police Department. He has previously participated in several charitable events to bring awareness to breast, lung, and prostate cancer research. He enjoys staying in shape by participating in CrossFit. Armando looks forward to serving the citizens of this community as he begins his journey at the Benicia Police Department. Welcome Armando. – *Police Department*

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES:** A new session of [English as a Second Language](#) classes has just started. Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00-2:30PM in the Library's Edna Clyne conference room. Sessions are designed to help participants learn basic English grammar, vocabulary, and English language skills to use in everyday life. Class and workbook are free, and you can join at any time during the year. – *Library*



**CITY OF BENICIA JOB OPPORTUNITIES:** The Human Resources Department is accepting applications for several positions:

- [Water Quality Supervisor](#), closing **September 20**
- [Public Safety Dispatcher](#), closing **September 20**
- [Associate Planner](#), closing **September 27**
- [Deputy City Clerk](#), closing **September 27**
- [Library Assistant](#) (on-call, part-time), closing **September 27**, and
- [Police Officer – Lateral](#), which is open continuously

To apply, the application and supplemental form 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*

**BENICIA'S REUSE PICK-UPS OFFERED TWICE MONTHLY:** Instead of donating items curbside to those groups that send postcards, you may make a donation locally with curbside pick-up by Republic Services (our garbage company) on **Sept. 27, Oct. 11 & 25, Nov. 1 & 15, and Dec. 5 & 20**. Reuse goods are sorted at Pacific Rim in Benicia, in collaboration with East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse. From there they go to local families in need, including low income families, battered women shelters, and to kids in need.

Goods that can be donated are items that you would need to start a new apartment such as utensils, dishware, housewares, lamps, gently-used clothing or shoes. All bikes and bike parts are accepted (working or not) and school supplies are always needed. Call Republic at 707.747.0608 for more information or to schedule a pick-up. – *City Manager's Office*

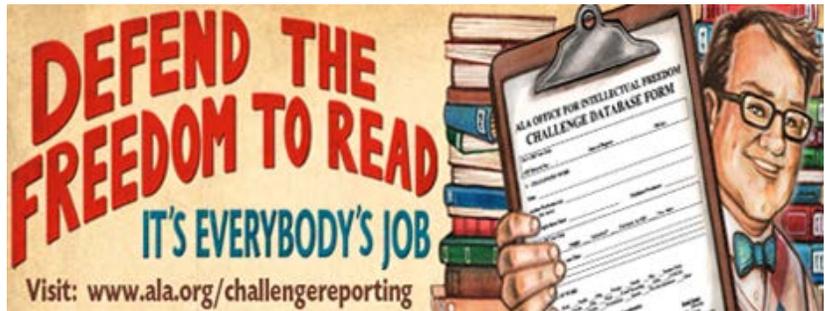


**BFD ASSISTS ON MORGAN FIRE:** The Benicia Fire Department did its part to help control another large wildfire; however, this time it was a little closer to home. Benicia Fire sent one engine staffed with three firefighters as part of a five engine Solano County strike team to the Morgan Fire on Mt. Diablo in Contra Costa County. The crew left at 3:00AM on Sunday, September 8 and responded directly to the scene. They spent three days performing various fire suppression activities and were released back to Solano County on September 11. The Benicia engine was staffed by Captain Jed Matcham, Engineer Tony Horner, and Firefighter Rick Netro. Coverage of assistance by Benicia Fire was picked up by the Associated Press and appeared from Oroville to [Danbury, Connecticut!](#)



It is essential we remember the importance of assisting our neighboring cities, as we too rely heavily on the assistance of surrounding fire agencies when significant incidents occur in our jurisdiction. As an example, Contra Costa Fire Protection District regularly sends an engine to incidents in Benicia and is included as part of our second alarm assignment. – *Fire Department*

**BANNED BOOKS WEEK:** Banned Books Week is **September 22-28**. The annual celebration of the freedom to read since 1982, is observed the last week of September. Each year, librarians, booksellers, teachers and countless others take this opportunity to highlight the importance of intellectual freedom and remind us not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted. More information at <http://www.ala.org/bbooks>. - *Library*



**CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY AT THE LIBRARY:** Coordinating with the Solano County Libraries, the Benicia Public Library honored its customers with cookies, bookmarks, and prizes on September 10. Library visitors were treated with cookies and bookmarks that could be redeemed for free books stashed throughout the library. The Library wanted to offer the day as a small gesture to say thanks. The celebration treats and free books were provided courtesy of the Friends of the Benicia Public Library. - *Library*



**NEW BENICIA BUSINESSES:** The following are newly licensed businesses or businesses in new locations. Please stop by and make them feel welcome:

- **Red Line Synthetic Oil Corp** — 6100 Egret Court, new owners: Cameron Evans and Kent Farmer
- **Safway Services** — 4072 B Teal Court, new owners: Bill Hayes and Jim Walters
- **Entech Medical Corporation** — 5000 East Second Street, Suite B, owners: Leonard and Deborah Hoffstetter
- **Bledsoe Sales** — 331 first Street, Suite 5, owner: William Bledsoe
- **Boland Inc., DBA S & S Supplies** — 360 Industrial Court, Bldg. B, owner: Sam Sarkissian
- **MFE Rentals, Inc.** — 536 Stone Road, Suite A, owner: Dylan Duke
- **North Capital, Inc.** — 110 East D Street, Suite D, owner: James P. Dowd
- **Wholesale Tire and Automotive** — 4650 East Second Street, Suite A, owner: George Bohorquez
- **Chari Goldstein, MFT** — 638 ½ First Street (sharing office), owner: Chari Goldstein
- **Greenpath Insurance Co.** — 801 First Street, Suite G, owners: Jerry Keenan and John Donahue

- *Economic Development*



**BFD PARTICIPATES IN SACRAMENTO 9/11 MEMORIAL CLIMB:** On September 11, three members of the Benicia Fire Department participated in the Sacramento 9/11 Memorial Climb to honor the 343 Firefighters who died at the World Trade Center in 2001. Firefighters from Benicia joined more than 350 other firefighters from throughout Northern California at the Renaissance Tower in Sacramento. Each participant in the event was provided the name and picture of one of the New York Firefighters who died at the World Trade Center. The participants then set out to climb 110 floors wearing full

gear in honor of the fallen firefighter whose name and picture they carried. Since the buildings in Sacramento are not as tall, the participants needed to ascend and descend the stairs 4 times in order to reach their goal. At the end of the final ascent, participants continued onto the rooftop where the names of the fallen firefighters were then placed on a memorial and a bell was sounded in their honor. –

*Fire Department*



**ONE-PITCH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT/FUNDRAISER:** On Sunday, September 15, members of the Benicia Fire Department participated with several other departments in the area in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual One Pitch Softball Tournament. This event was hosted by the Firefighters Local 1186 at Benicia Community Park. In addition to softball, there were activities available for family members, as well as a raffle. Tournament winners were firefighters from Fairfield. The event raised over \$5,000 for the Solano-Napa Firefighters Foundation Inc. This organization will return these funds to the community in support of various local individuals or groups.



Also on hand at the event was “Christine”, the Pink Fire Engine. This vehicle is operated by the Guardians of the Ribbon Pink Heals and is used at various events to raise awareness of the challenges associated with battling cancer. – *Fire Department*

**BERT AND VIPS COMPLETE FEMA TRAINING:** On Saturday, September 7, members from both the Benicia Emergency Response Team (BERT) and the Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) programs completed a basic traffic and crowd management class. The course materials were provided by FEMA, with the goals of the course including:



- How Incident Command System (ICS), size-up, safety, and team communication apply to traffic and crowd management.
- Using hand signals and communication skills to direct traffic and crowds, and communicating with team members up the chain of command during traffic and crowd events.
- Crowd psychology skills for responding to crowd behavior, when to back away from a crowd instead of responding, maintaining safety while managing crowds, and how to put together a basic crowd management plan.
- Using traffic control devices to manage traffic in various situations, safety when managing traffic and how to put together a basic traffic management plan.

The training was coordinated by Larry Whitney, BERT Chief and Nicolas Thomas, Benicia Fire Division Chief. The instructor was Benicia Police Officer Pat Tracy. – *Police Department*

**UPDATE FROM PUBLIC WORKS:** Take a look at what the Public Works Department was up to in August. Maybe they were in your neighborhood?

**Maintenance – Streets:**

- **Paving-** Viewmont Street at East 3rd, 600 West K Street, 800 West L Street
- **Crack Seal-** 100 East L Street, West 7th Street (K Street to Military), East 3rd (Military to St Augustine), Warwick Drive (Chelsea Hills to Sunrise Court)
- **Special Events-** Peddler's Fair, Soccer Parade, Farmers Market
- **Potholes-** Semples Crossing, 100 East L Street, 400 West K Street, Lake Herman Road, East 2nd Street, Warwick Drive, Southampton Road, Cambridge Drive
- **Legend & Curb Painting-** East 4th at H, I & J Streets, East 5th at L, I & J Streets, East 3rd at J Street, East 3rd near Robert Semple School, 1400 West K Street, East 5th near St. Dominic School
- **Signs-** 100 East K Street, 400 Viewmont Street, Military West, East L at 2nd Street, West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, West I Street, Denfield Way, Allen Way, Panorama Drive, Gallagher Drive, Baker Street, Dundee Way, Carlisle at Essex, 100 East B Street, Southampton Road, Rose Drive
- **Miscellaneous-** Tree trimming- West 7th Street, West I Street. Trash pickup- Lake Herman Road, Reservoir Road

**Maintenance – Sewer:**

- **Customer Service Calls-** Del Centro Avenue, East I Street, West G Street, West I Street, La Cruz Avenue, Duvall Court, Ardmore Way, West J Street, Eaton Court, West M Street, Helaine Court
- **Closed Circuit Televising-** West G Street, Del Centro Avenue, La Cruz Avenue, Ardmore Way, West J Street, West M Street, West G Street
- **Lift Station Cleanings** West 8th Street, Egret Court, East 7th Street, Barn Station
- **City Wide Line Cleanings-** Customer Service Calls 433', Scheduled 8,129'

**Water:**

- Crews responded to 5 service line leaks.
- Valves exercised: 12, hydrants flushed: 0.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects:**

- Staff has prepped and repainted the new wraparound piping system. This was done because a problem arose with the existing paint. It was stripped down, re-primed and re-painted.



- Staff has taken on a large project of recognizing and pulling excess wire throughout the Plant. This is an ongoing, very long process that will help make things easier in the future for the Plant's electrical needs. It is anticipated to last several months because of the volume of wires needing to be identified, then determination if removal is appropriate.



**WWTP Plant Maintenance:**

- Staff performed 42 preventive maintenance task and 3 corrective maintenance task

**WWTP Plant Performance:**

- The Plant processed 75.3 million gallons of raw wastewater with no Permit exceedances.
- Nutrient pollution removal; BOD = 98.6% TSS = 98.5%

- *Public Works*

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



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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**

**[Community Development:](#) 707.746.4280**

**[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**