



**CITY MANAGER'S
REPORT**

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**SEPTEMBER 22, 2014**

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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**REGISTER TO VOTE:** Election Day is **Tuesday, November 4** and your vote is always important to our democratic process. To make sure you're ready, here are some important dates:

- **October 20** - the deadline to [register to vote](#) if you are not already registered.
- **October 20** – the deadline to register to vote if you are not already registered and would like to vote by mail. When you register, you may check 'vote by mail'.
- **October 28** – the deadline to [request to vote by mail](#) if you are already a registered voter.



Your request must reach the Solano County Registrar of Voters Office by these dates. You can register to vote online or pick up a form in the City Clerk's Office or any DMV, Library or Post Office.

To find out if you are registered or to locate your polling place, contact the [Registrar](#) at 707.784.6675 or check their [website](#).

Poll workers are always needed. Please contact the Registrar of Voters if you'd like to volunteer. - *City Clerk*

**TOILETS - BEST WAYS TO SAVE:** If you are like most people you probably don't spend much time thinking about your toilet. Traditional non-efficient toilets (pre 1993) use 3.5 to 8 gallons of water each time they are flushed. "Ultra Low Flow Toilets" (ULFTs) use 1.6 gallons per flush and newer "High Efficiency Toilets" (HETs) use 1.28 gallons per flush.



If you are unsure of the vintage of your toilet you can check the date of manufacture by looking at the underside of the tank lid. The date is often stamped into the porcelain. If your toilet was made after 1993 it should be an efficient model. Toilets made during the 1980s typically were designed to use 3.5 gallons per flush. Older toilets often use much more. You can save 45 gallons per day and 23,000 gallons a year if you go straight from the traditional non-efficient toilet to an HET model.

During the drought you have been asked to reduce your water use substantially. Toilet use is typically the largest category of indoor water use and there is substantial room for water savings. Here are some tips for maximizing toilet use efficiency:

- Regularly check for and repair toilet leaks. To check your toilet for leaks put some food dye in the tank and then leave it for 15 minutes. When you return, look in the bowl to see if there is any color. If so, the flapper valve is leaking and it will need to be repaired. Leaking toilets cause more water waste than any other fixture in the home. A silent toilet leak will waste 30 to 500 gallons of water per day!
- Avoid using caustic toilet bowl cleaners such as toilet tank tablets. These products alter the pH of water in your tank and damage plastic and rubber toilet parts causing leaks.
- Flush less frequently. During drought emergencies some families adopt the adage, "if it's yellow let it mellow and if it's brown flush it down."
- Rebates up to \$100 dollars are available to Benicia residents for the purchase of high efficiency toilets through a rebate program offered by Solano County Water Agency. If you would like more information about the rebate program go to <http://www.solanosaveswater.org/>.

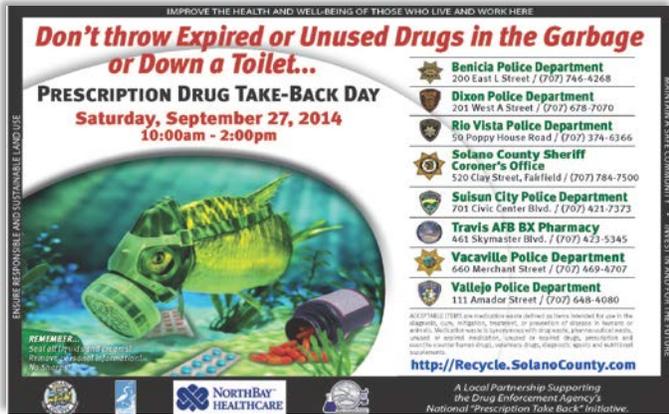
- Public Works

**COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY:** The Planning Committee for Community Clean Up Day has hit the ground running with two successful meetings and great projects outlined. They are finalizing details for their first event at the City Cemetery on **Saturday, November 8** (Veteran's Day is Tues. 11/11). Event details and fliers will be distributed in the next few weeks.



Want to get involved? Join the Planning Committee or join the distribution list for event details by contacting [Ashley Howe](#), Recreation Supervisor, at 707.746.4283. – Parks & Community Services

**REMINDERS: Prescription Take-Back Day:** The next Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is **Saturday, September 27, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM** at Benicia Police Department, 250 East L Street. – *Police Department*



**SoFitCity Day:** Each city in Solano County has proclaimed **Saturday, September 27** at SOFITCITY DAY in the unified effort to build a healthier community. Sponsored by Kaiser

Permanente, City of Fairfield, Sports Authority, Macy's and Solano Fit Magazine, SOFITCITY encourages residents to run, walk or dance at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual 5K-10K-Mile event held at the Solano Town Center, 1350 Travis Blvd in Fairfield. The city with the most participation wins the county trophy and the distinction of being the "Fittest City." Brand new participants (VIPs) receive finisher medals. Returning participants (MVPs) receive legacy pins to commemorate the completion of their selected distance.



Funds from SOFITCITY support the Children's Network and grants for local school gardens and mileage programs. [Click here](#) for more information. – *City Manager's Office*



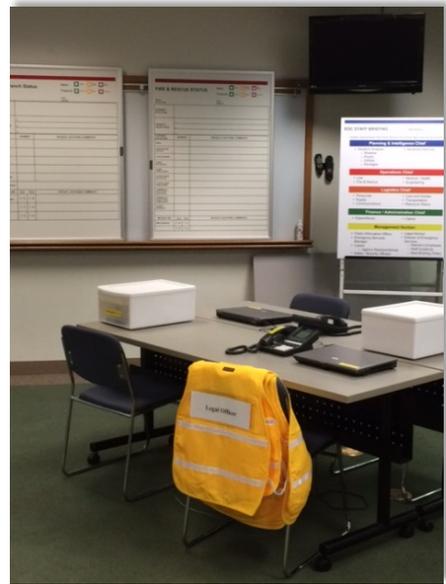
**Oktoberfest Fundraiser:** The Benicia Human Services Board invites you to their annual fundraiser, an authentic Oktoberfest, on **Sunday, September 28, 1:00-5:00 PM** at the Benicia Clocktower, 1189 Washington Street in the historic Benicia Arsenal. – *City Manager's Office*

**Measures on the November Ballot:** The Benicia City Council recently voted to put two measures on the **November 4** ballot. Measure B will decide the question of whether the City



Treasurer position is elected or appointed. Measure C, the quality of life measure, proposes a 1 cent per dollar sales tax increase. More information on Measure C is available at [www.BeniciaMeasureC.org](http://www.BeniciaMeasureC.org). – *City Manager*

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS CONTINUE:** The recent earthquake occurred in a period of time when the Fire Department was embarking on a couple of projects to highlight community preparedness opportunities. In addition, they were in the middle of a project to update the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and planning for the training of all EOC staff. Our EOC is staffed on an as needed basis by individuals from throughout the City's workforce. For many of the individuals that staff the EOC, their involvement in emergency management is somewhat limited. Therefore, it is important that we have a facility that is functional and that staff is given an opportunity to occasionally review their roles and responsibilities.



On September 18, we completed the first EOC review with members of the City's Management team. In the upcoming weeks we will be bringing in the individuals responsible for EOC functions of Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Admin. These sessions will be followed by additional training including a table top exercise based on a simulated event.

September is National Preparedness Month and we have taken the opportunity to remind the public about ways that they can be better prepared. The theme for this year is *Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare*. For those who have not seen the Fire Department's weekly informational releases, you may review all the information at <http://www.ready.gov/september>.

There is still an opportunity to participate in preparation activities. On **Tuesday, September 30**, your family or business can participate in the [National Prepareathon Day](http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/AmericasPrepareathon). Visit <http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/AmericasPrepareathon> for more information. Finally, watch the City Manager's Report for more information in the upcoming weeks on the Great California Shakeout on **Thursday, October 16**. – *Fire Department*

**GREAT SHAKEOUT COMES TO CITY HALL:** City departments will be participating in the [Great California Shakeout](http://www.shakeout.org/california) at 10:16 AM on **Thursday, October 16**. Staff will be alerted to the earthquake exercise and be advised to Drop, Cover, and Hold On. While on the floor, it is suggested that employees look around at what would be falling on them in a real earthquake. After the drill, they are encouraged to move items to prevent injury and damage in the future. After the end of quake announcement, employees are to exit per their evacuation plan and report to the designated location. Once all employees are accounted for, a representative will notify the Fire Department. Individuals, families, businesses, and organizations can participate, too. Register at [shakeout.org/california](http://shakeout.org/california). – *Fire Department*



**SOLTRANS IS LOOKING FOR YOUR FEEDBACK:** SolTrans (Solano County Transit) is looking for your feedback on their [Revised System Improvement Proposal](#). They have refined the System Improvement route proposals based on public input. Join them at one of their September outreach events or visit their System Restructuring webpage for more information. Proposals will be on display and staff will be available at the events to answer questions. – *City Manager*



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

- [Recreation Leader II](#) – Part Time, closing **October 1**
- [Police Officer – Lateral](#), 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*

**BENICIA IN THE NEWS:** *Calif. city reduces EV charging costs by integrating energy storage with solar* is the title of the article recently published by SNL.

“Electric vehicle owners in California and other states have been pushing for the installation of fast-charging stations. Range anxiety continues to be a major concern for electric vehicles owners who often see their car batteries drain when traveling in stop-and-go traffic or when attempting to make longer trips.

Many California municipalities have adopted strategies to promote electric vehicles. The state leads the nation in electric vehicle owners as about one-third of all plug-in electric vehicles in the U.S. are purchased by California drivers. The city of Benicia, Calif., as part of its climate action plan, set out not only to increase the number of electric vehicles used by its residents but to expand the city's electric vehicle infrastructure, including installing fast-charging stations.”

[Click here](#) to read the article in its entirety. – *Community Development*



Fast electric charging station in Benicia, Calif.  
Source: Akshay Sawhney Photography

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

**Maintenance Streets:**

- **Crack Sealing-** Northbound lanes on East Second Street
- **Special Events-** Peddler’s Fair and Soccer Parade, placed no parking and sand barricades, and Farmers Market setup every Thursday
- **Miscellaneous-** Pavement legend marking of School Zones, painted red curbs at various locations citywide, picked up household trash on Reservoir Road and Lake Herman Road, removed graffiti at various locations. Performed storm drain outfall reconstruction and documentation for Engineering Department.

**Maintenance Sewer:**

- **Customer Service Calls-** 300 West J Street, 100 East J Street, 1000 Grove Circle, 1500 Sherman Drive, 1200 Polk Street, 600 Military East, 100 East J Street
- **Lift Station Cleanings-** East Seventh Street, East B Street, Panorama Drive, West Eighth Street Repair, 300 West H Street
- **Closed Circuit Line Televising-** 300 West J Street, 100 East I Street, 1500 Sherman Drive, 300 West H Street, 100 East J Street
- **City Wide Line Cleanings-** Service Calls 470’, Scheduled 8,663’



**Maintenance Water:**

- **Water Leak Repairs-** 800 Oxford Way, 1800 Drolette Way, 1000 Jackson Street, 1500 Sherman Drive (2), 800 Channing Circle (4), 400 Channing Circle, 200 Channing Circle, West N Street, 1100 West L Street, 500 Stone Road, 900 West L Street

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects:**

- Projects for August 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 Maintenance:**

- Staff performed 57 preventive maintenance tasks as well as closing out six corrective maintenance work orders.

**WWTP Plant Performance:**

- The Plant processed 72.2 million gallons of raw wastewater with no Permit exceedances.
- Nutrient pollution removal; BOD = 99% TSS = 99%

*-Public Works*

## **B**ENICIA AWARDED FOR EFFORTS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE: The Institute for



**l-r: City Attorney Heather McLaughlin, Mayor Elizabeth Patterson, and City Manager Brad Kilger**

Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative honored the City of Benicia with two Spotlight Awards for the City's efforts to save energy and adopt policies and programs that promote sustainability. The awards were presented on September 4 during the 2014 League of California Cities Annual Conference in Los Angeles. The City's achievements were recognized as a part of its participation in the sustainability recognition program, the Beacon Award: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change.

Benicia received the following awards:

- Gold Spotlight Award for 11% in energy savings
- Platinum Spotlight Award for 72 sustainability best practice activities

To achieve these awards, the city has implemented numerous initiatives in areas ranging from green building to recycling to efficient transportation. A few highlights of these best practices include:

- Initiating a free compost give-away for residents twice a year for use in residential gardens – residents are also offered a 50% discount for one compost bin;
- Designing express bus route, support projects including high visibility crosswalks, improved bus stops, bicycle lockers and new bicycle lanes among other components.

“The Beacon Award program honors local agencies for innovative solutions that address climate change. The City of Benicia is a model of how to implement sustainability measures in a way that results in a more vibrant, healthy and prosperous community.” said Martin Gonzalez, Director of Institute for Local Government.

More information about Benicia's Beacon Spotlight Award activities is available at [www.ca-ilg.org/beacon-award-participant-profile/city-benicia](http://www.ca-ilg.org/beacon-award-participant-profile/city-benicia).

The Institute for Local Government is the nonprofit research and education affiliate of the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties. The Institute's mission is to promote good government at the local level with practical, impartial and easy-to-use resources for California communities. The Beacon Award program was created by the Institute for Local Government in 2009. It is funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by Southern California Gas Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Southern California Edison, under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. Visit [www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward](http://www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward) for more information. – *Community Development*

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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