

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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SEPTEMBER 22, 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.

**NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH: *Don't Wait. Communicate, Make Your Emergency Plan Today*** is the theme for this year's National Preparedness Month (September). Each week in the month is focused on preparing for the potential of a specific type of event.

Week 1- Flood  
Week 2- Wildfire  
Week 3- Hurricane  
Week 4- Power Outage

The month culminates with a National Preparation Day on **Wednesday, September 30**.

All City of Benicia staff will be participating in upcoming training.

The recent wildfires in Lake County are a reminder to all of us to get prepared. Do you live or work in an area that is at risk of devastation from a fire in the vegetation/open space/wildland? Have you taken the time to prepare your property for the occurrence of a fire, including such things as maintaining a defensible space around any structures?



If you were told to evacuate your home due to a fire (or any other disaster), do you know what items you would take with you? Does everyone in your household understand the priority of getting these items if you're not present at the time?



[www.ready.gov/September](http://www.ready.gov/September)

#NatlPrep

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Preparing yourself and your family for this type of a disaster is very similar to being prepared for other types of disasters. Essentially, the key is in preparation and planning for the event. Part of this process is to ensure that everyone understands the plan and their role in being prepared to execute the plan. For those of us that work in public safety (which is all City staff during a disaster), it is important that our families are prepared to carry out these plans without us.

Information about disaster preparedness is at [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov). Specific information about making a plan is available at <http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>. This is a great site for you to visit in order to get information about preparing for a disaster, both at home or at work.

As a reminder, look for accurate, up-to-date information during an emergency on the City of Benicia's [website announcements](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), on [Nextdoor.com](#), or subscribe through this newsletter. Bookmark your favorite and be ready to share. – *Fire Department*

**P****RESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK:** Gather your expired and unused medication for the Take-Back event on **Saturday, September 26**, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Benicia Police Department, 250 East L Street. They take prescription medication, supplements, over-the-counter medication and more. Just dump them all in a zip-lock bag and drop them off. Get the details at <http://Recycle.SolanoCounty.com> and help keep unused medication out of our landfills, waterways, and the hands of our youth. – *Police Department*

IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THOSE WHO LIVE AND WORK HERE

## Don't throw Expired or Unused Drugs in the Garbage or Down a Toilet...

### PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

**Saturday, September 26, 2015**  
10:00am - 2:00pm



**REMEMBER...**  
Seal all liquids and creams!  
Remove personal information!  
No Sharps!

-  **Benicia Police Department**  
200 East L Street / (707) 746-4268
-  **Dixon Police Department**  
201 West A Street / (707) 678-7070
-  **Rio Vista Police Department**  
50 Poppy House Road / (707) 374-6366
-  **Solano County Sheriff Coroner's Office**  
520 Clay Street, Fairfield / (707) 784-7500
-  **Suisun City Police Department**  
701 Civic Center Blvd. / (707) 421-7373
-  **60th Wing Travis Air Force Base**  
BX (Next to Starbucks) 461 Skymaster Circle Bldg 650 / (707) 423-5345
-  **Vallejo Police Department**  
111 Amador Street / (707) 648-4080

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS are medication waste defined as items intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in humans or animals. Medication waste is synonymous with drug waste, pharmaceutical waste, unused or expired medication, unused or expired drugs, prescription and over the counter human drugs, veterinary drugs, diagnostic agents and nutritional supplements.

<http://Recycle.SolanoCounty.com>

ENSURE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

MAINTAIN A SAFE COMMUNITY • INVEST IN AND FOR THE FUTURE






A Local Partnership Supporting the Drug Enforcement Agency's National "Prescription Take Back" Initiative.

**BENICIA DEMONSTRATION GARDEN (WATER/DROUGHT TOLERANT):** Rebuilding Together Solano County (RTSC) is pleased to partner with the City of Benicia, Solano County Water Agency, and Valery Benicia Refinery for this project (removal of the existing grass sod and installation of a Water Demonstration Garden in a portion of the open area on East Second Street between the Benicia Senior Center and Military East). This project will demonstrate the benefits of planting drought tolerant and low-water use planting / trees as well as efficient watering techniques.

Workdays will be held **September 23 - September 26** from 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM. Volunteers will be provided with breakfast goodies, snacks, lunch as well as beverages throughout the day along with a t-shirt.

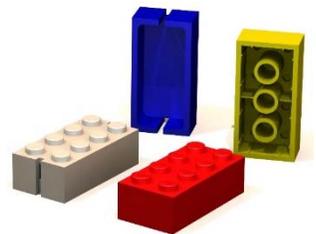


**Ways you can help:**

- Donate monies (checks payable to Rebuilding Together Solano County, a nonprofit organization Tax ID #80-0473076)
- Donate home rehab services (i.e. plumbing, electrical, carpentry)
- Donate home rehab supplies (i.e. paintbrushes, buckets, etc.)
- Volunteer at a workday
- Volunteer to assist with data entry

Special Thanks to Tom Norton of THNORTON Landscape Architecture for donating his services for this project.

For further details, go to [www.rebuildingtogethersolanocounty.org](http://www.rebuildingtogethersolanocounty.org). –  
*City Manager's Office*



**LEGO AND BOARD GAME AFTERNOONS:** Looking for something to do with your kids after school? Bring them to the Benicia Public Library's Dona Benicia Room to play with Lego from 3:30 - 5:00 PM on the following Thursdays: **October 1**, and **October 15**. There will also be board games for those who would rather play games. The event is fun and FREE – *Library*



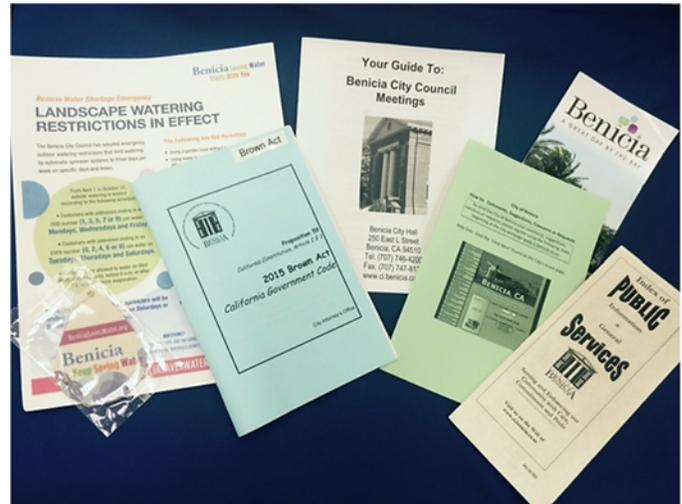
**FREE FLU SHOT CLINIC:** It's that time again! Time to get your flu shot. The City of Benicia is offering flu shots on **Wednesday, October 7**, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Benicia Senior Center, 187 East L Street. Provided by the Solano County Public Health Immunization Program, the shots are **free** and open to all ages. – *Parks & Community Services*

## **O**PEN GOVERNMENT COMMISSION AT THE FARMER'S MARKET: Since 2013, the City of

Benicia Open Government Commission has staffed a booth at the Benicia Farmers Market. Every Thursday from April through October, the Commissioners make themselves available to the public to answer questions, listen to suggestions, and educate the community about how our City's government works and how they can become more involved. This year the Commission has averaged more than 70 people approaching the booth per week!

The Commissioners often receive candid citizen feedback and bring issues to the attention of the City so that the appropriate staff can follow up directly with answers and solutions. The past couple of years, the Open Government Commission has partnered up with other boards, commissions, and departments to spread the word about upcoming events and specifically worked with the Public Works Department to raise awareness about California's drought and encourage water conservation. Each week the City gives away fun water conserving tools including low-flow showerheads, sink aerators, soil moisture regulators and shower timers.

The Commissioners enjoy interacting with the public, helping people learn about local government practices, and especially hearing enthusiasm for becoming involved in the community and sharing creative ways for conserving water! – *City Attorney's Office*



*Some of the items shared at the weekly Farmers Market*

## **P**ERSONNEL NEWS:

**Employee Recognition:** Benicia Police Department invites you the ceremony celebrating the promotion of Sgt. Mark Menesini and the swearing in of Officers Erik Wooklief and Angela Maniego. Dispatcher Sophia Pock and Family Resource Center Coordinator Corby Selzer will also be recognized. The event will be on **Wednesday, October 7** at 4:00 PM in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. – *Police Department*



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

- [Recreation Leader II](#), part-time, open continuously
- [Recreation Supervisor](#), full-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*

**Library Promotion Announced:** Library Director Diane Smikahl is pleased to announce the promotion of Helaine Bowles to the position of Administrative Secretary, replacing Toni Yosick upon her retirement.

Helaine, a native of Chicago and Charlotte, North Carolina moved to Benicia in 2000, and started working part-time at the Benicia Library as the Volunteer Coordinator starting the first adult book club at the Library (we now have 4). In 2007, she was promoted to a full-time position as the Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator working with different community organizations and continuing to work with the adult volunteers and book clubs. Helaine is one of the staff liaisons with the Benicia Arts and Culture Commission and also works on adult programming, special events, etc.



Helaine is the board president of Benicia Main Street and she is also a member of Soroptimist of Benicia and on the Region Board. In her spare time, Helaine likes to bake, read, and spend time with her friends and family. – *Library*

**New Police Officer:** Police Chief Erik Upson is pleased to announce the hiring of Johnny Green as the newest Police Officer. Johnny grew up in the Bay Area with his parents and three sisters. He attended junior and senior high school in Vacaville where he wrestled and won league and section championships.



Upon graduation, he attended Norwich University in Vermont, the oldest Military University in America. He graduated with a B.S. in Criminal Justice with a minor in Sociology. He recently graduated from Napa Valley Police Academy and looks forward to starting his career in Benicia this month.

In his free time, he enjoys all types of physical activities and watching sports. His favorite teams are the 49ers, Giants and Sharks. – *Police Department*

Please join me in congratulating Helaine and welcoming Johnny to the City of Benicia family. – *City Manager*

**C**ONFIDENTIAL SHREDDING EVENTS: **September 26** and **October 24** are the last two free confidential paper shredding, electronic waste, and used clothing drop-off events for 2015. The events are from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the corner of Jefferson and Empire Streets in Fairfield.

These events have been extremely successful. To date, Gone for Good has shredded and recycled 35,400 pounds of confidential papers and collected and recycled 18,600 pounds of electronic waste. In addition, the 1,798 pounds of used clothing was repurposed through United Cerebral Palsy of North Bay's thrift stores.

Identity theft can be avoided by safely destroying your confidential papers and e-waste. Be careful when donating personal computers or electronic devices to companies that may sell your items along with your personal information. Be sure to only donate your computers or personal electronic devices to companies that securely wipe out the personal data and recycle them.

Fairfield-based Gone for Good is a branch of the United Cerebral Palsy of North Bay and is a nonprofit corporation. They can provide complete media and document destruction and recycling services for your home or office. For more information on Gone for Good or media destruction, call Bruce Mullenix at 707.430.4380 or visit their website at [www.goneforgooducpn.com](http://www.goneforgooducpn.com).

Gone for Good is a social enterprise of United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay. Their mission is to operate recycling programs, scanning services, and e-waste recycling while employing people with disabilities.

These free events is open to all Solano County residents and are provided through a partnership with the City of Fairfield, Fairfield Main Street Association, Solano County, and UCP of the North Bay. Please check the City of Fairfield's website to verify the dates and times. For more information on recycling, visit [www.fairfield.ca.gov/Recycling](http://www.fairfield.ca.gov/Recycling). – *City Manager's Office*



**BANNED BOOKS WEEK:** Celebrating the Freedom to Read at the Benicia Public Library during Banned Book Week, **September 27 - October 3.**

What do the books *Slaughterhouse-five* by Kurt Vonnegut, *The Complete Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm*, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, *The American Heritage Dictionary* and *A Light in the Attic* by Shel Silverstein have in common? They have all been challenged or banned somewhere around the globe. Banned Books Week is observed during the last week of September each year. This annual event reminds Americans not to take this valued democratic freedom for granted.

**What is a challenged or banned book?**

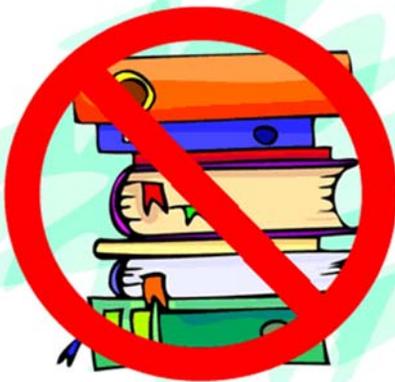
A challenged book is one that has been officially disputed as an attempt to ban or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A banned book, in contrast, is a successful challenge of an item that has been reviewed by a committee of teachers, librarians, board members or government officials and removed from a collection of books. The term 'banned book' is to some extent a misnomer. When a book is labeled as challenged or banned it does not signify that people should not read the book; it merely states that some people consider these books dangerous or unsafe for a specific audience. The core purpose of Banned Books Week is to spread awareness of these books that have been banned and leave it up to the individual whether to read the book or not. This is one way that America's libraries promote and celebrate the First Amendment, the freedom of speech.

The Benicia Public Library takes part in Banned Books Week to support the community's freedom to express its individual beliefs through providing books and other materials that share the same viewpoints as its patrons. It, like many other libraries and book stores in the area, will remind its patrons to play a part exercising their intellectual freedom and First Amendment right by deciding for themselves what to read, regardless of the opinions expressed therein.

A group of Benicia Public Library's dedicated teen volunteers have worked hard to bring awareness to the community by creating original displays and posters for Banned Books Week. The Library will be adorned with posters containing themes like, "Free People Read

Freely" and "Censorship Causes Blindness." When you walk into the Library between September 27 and October 3, you will see a plethora of orange bookmarks in the shelves representing over 2,000 books that schools, libraries, churches, governments and entire countries around the world have considered hazardous to read. Show your support and exercise your freedom to read by checking out books from our special book displays during Banned Books Week. For more information on Banned Books Week, go to <http://www.ala.org/bbooks/bannedbooksweek>.

–  
*Library*



**BENICIA**  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Open House**

**Saturday, October 10th**  
**11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**  
**Fire Station 11**  
**150 Military West**



**Participants**

- \* CHP
- \* Medic Ambulance
- \* BERT
- \* Fire Volunteers, Reserves, and Explorers
- \* Benicia Police
- \* Valero Fire Department
- \* BARC
- \* REACH Air Medical
- \* PG&E
- \* Benicia 911 Dispatchers
- \* United States Coast Guard



**Activities**

- \* Free Food
- \* Face Painting
- \* First 200 children receive goodie bags
- \* Hands-on Extinguisher Demo
- \* Fire Engine Rides
- \* Rope Rescue Demo
- \* Fire Engine Show & Tell
- \* Coast Guard Boat Tours
- \* Fire Station Tours

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



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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](mailto: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**