

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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OCTOBER 15, 2012

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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**CURB APPEAL SELLS:** We all know whether you're trying to bring in customers or selling your home, curb appeal matters. You spiff up the yard, the plantings, the paint, etc. Well, the freeways running through Benicia are our curb appeal. They are the first thing visitors draw an impression of when they come to Benicia. At this time, our freeways are looking a lot like the front yard of those neighbors that bring down your neighborhood. You know, we all have one. Our freeways and off-ramps are Caltrans property and are restricted to Caltrans only maintenance. Just like the City of Benicia, Caltrans has faced staffing cutback and is doing more with less. The City is looking at ways to improve the appearance and cleanliness of our freeway by reminding Caltrans of our need for maintenance, looking at enforcement of trucks with improperly covered loads, and encouraging use of the [Adopt-A-Highway Program](#) and Litter Abatement Program. You can do your part by not littering and reporting those that do to the police department or CHP at 1-800-TELL-CHP. – *City Manager*



**VOTER INFORMATION:** The last day to register to vote is *Monday, October 22* for the Tuesday, November 6 election. You can find voter registration forms at the Library or City Clerk's Office to register to vote, change your name, update your address or your party affiliation. You can also register [online](#) until midnight on October 22.

If you are already registered and would like to vote absentee, request a Vote by Mail ballot from the [Registrar of Voters](#). Requests are due by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, October 30.

To cast your ballot, check online for the location of your [polling place](#) or place your Vote by Mail ballot in the ballot box in the City Clerk's Office at City Hall before noon on November 6.

The [League of Women Voters](#) has resources to help you make your voting decisions. – *City Clerk*



## UPDATE FROM PUBLIC WORKS:

Take a look at what the Public Works Department was working on in September. Were they working in your neighborhood?

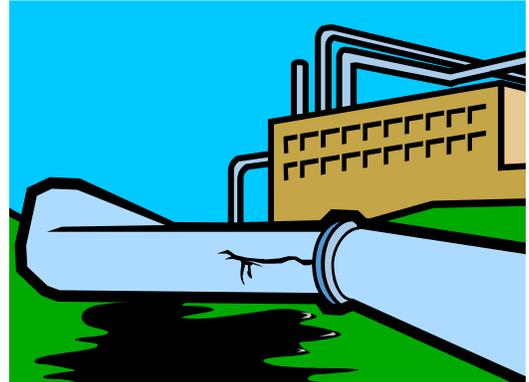
### Maintenance – Streets:

- Paving- West 2nd Street (7), McKenna Court (10), Lake Herman Road (5), 300 blk West M Street alley (11.5), Buena Vista (14). 47.5 tons total
- Potholes- West 7th Street, Southampton Road
- Crack Sealing- Lake Herman Road
- Weed Abatement- Reservoir Road, East 2nd Street, Lake Herman Road, Water Treatment Plant, 1100 blk Military West, Church Street, Military (gutters & sidewalk), Grant Street, East 5th Street (alleys), E Street Parking lot, Egret Court
- Special Event Set-Up- Handicraft Fair, Coastal Clean-Up, Farmers Market, Expanding Experiences, Stoneman Block Party
- Storm Drain Maintenance- Industrial Way open ditch cleaning

### Maintenance – Sewer:

- September Cleanings- 29 locations citywide. 9,157' total
- Televised Inspections- East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, East G Street, Buena Vista

- Lift Station Cleanings- Industrial, Park Road, & Cambridge Stations
- Customer Calls- Hillcrest, Linda Vista, East 2nd Street, Buena Vista, & La Cruz
- Manhole Repaired- West 3rd @ J Street (vapor barrier installed)



### Maintenance – Water:

- Main leaks - Three main leaks: Top of West Tenny's (9/5/12), Military West 100' East of Drolette (9/17/12), and 124 White Chapel (9/21/12)
- Service line leaks - Three leaks were detected at 2228 1st Street (15' replaced), 838 Clifton Court (15' replaced), and 416 Military West (100' replaced). All service line leaks were HDPE and replaced with copper. The cause of each service line leak was likely pipe deterioration.

- Public Works

**JOB OPENINGS:** The City of Benicia Human Resources Department announces the following positions open to current employees and the general public:

- [Field Utilities and Streets Apprentice \(FUSA\)](#) in the Public Works Department. This position closes **October 25, 2012**.
- [Human Resources Analyst I](#) in the HR Department. This position closes **November 1, 2012**
- In addition, we have an opening for [Police Officer-Lateral](#). This position is open continuously.

- Human Resources



**CITY RECEIVES EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD:** The City of Benicia has received a **Gold Excellence in Economic Development Award** for their Benicia Sustainability Management Program in the category of Sustainable & Green Development for communities with populations of 25,000 - 200,000 from the International Economic Development Council ([IEDC](#)).



The honor was presented at an awards ceremony on Tuesday, October 2, during the IEDC Annual Conference. "We recognize City of Benicia, and Chabin Concepts who assisted the city in the design of the program, for creating innovative and successful strategies to promote economic development in this period of global recovery," said Jay Moon, IEDC chair. "Our awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in communities. City of Benicia demonstrates that they are at the forefront of the economic development profession and are using cutting-edge, effective practices that can be replicated in other communities."

The City's goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10%. With the knowledge that the Benicia Industrial Park contributed disproportionately to overall emissions, the City faced a common dilemma: Do you regulate or do something else? The resulting Sustainable Management Program addressed energy and water efficiency, waste, recycling and fuel, as well as employee training in sustainability practices. To businesses in the industrial park, this business tool is known as the

Business Resources Incentive Program. Designed to benefit the 450 industrial park businesses, key features include:

- Free sustainability analysis provides businesses with recommendations for efficiency related improvements, including cost estimates and ROI.
- Sustainability Fund provides reimbursements and loans for recommended improvements undertaken by businesses.
- Web-based tracking through [greentraks.com](http://greentraks.com) monitors reduction of greenhouse gases and helps businesses manage resources. Workshops and training offered to business management and employees.

Aside from its unique funding source — Valero oil refinery's "Good Neighbor" agreement with the City — the program is fully replicable, including: Integration of sustainability with business retention (facilitated by ExecutivePulse), free assessments and revolving loan funds, and online monitoring (facilitated by [greentraks.com](http://greentraks.com)).

IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year's most influential leaders. These awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities. — *Economic Development*

**LUNCHEON AT THE SENIOR CENTER:** The Benicia Senior Center hosted their



monthly luncheon on Wednesday, September 26. This month's theme was "An Afternoon in Italy". Approximately 60 seniors attended the lunch catered by Palermos (Columbus Parkway – Benicia). Everyone enjoyed delicious lasagna, pasta salad and garlic bread. The tables were decorated with small planters of Italian herbs, red and white-checked tablecloths & empty wine bottles. Dean Martin music played in the background. City employees volunteers served the seniors during lunchtime.

A special thanks goes to this months helpers: Amy Million & Gina Eleccion – Community Development, Ashley Howe, Lindsay Dion, Megan Beemon, Krystle Dilley & Ann Dunleavy - Park & Community Development.

If you or a company you know is interested in making the donation of a door prize for our senior lunches please contact [Ann Dunleavy](#). – *Parks & Community Services*

**FREE TRAINING SESSION - SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING:** We're heading into the holidays. Is your business ready to make the most of the season?

The City of Benicia is sponsoring a **free** training session aimed at Artists, Craftsmen, Small Business Owners, Business to Business, Downtown Businesses, Industrial Park Businesses, Home-Based Businesses, Arsenal Businesses, Southampton Businesses, Columbus Parkway Businesses, Non-Profits, etc.

***Tuesday, October 30, 8:30 - 10:00 am***  
Benicia Community Center, Program Room 2

Karen Rice of Constant Contact will provide information in this training session on how to use your email marketing application (Constant Contact, Vertical Response, iContact, etc.) to take advantage of holiday promotions. She will discuss best practices for online marketing for promotions, especially for the holidays but applicable for year-round marketing. Look for information on how to combine your presence in social media, email, and mobile to get great results. She will go over tips on creating promotions and scheduling and timing them, as well as sharing them and promoting your business/deals etc. In addition, she'll review case studies along with examples and will even share a toolkit with pre-constructed promo pieces!



[Register here](#) to save your spot and to find out more, or contact Teri Davena, City of Benicia Office of Economic Development at [tdavena@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:tdavena@ci.benicia.ca.us) or 707.746.4202. – *Economic Development*

**YOUTH BASKETBALL:** For the 2012 / 2013 season, the City of Benicia will offer a boys & girls Youth Basketball Program. Both programs will be for children in the 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades and is divided into four divisions for the boys (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>) and



three divisions for the girls (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>, & 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>). Players are placed on teams coached by volunteers and play eight games during the season. The program is designed so that equal participation is given to all participants with emphasis on recreational play, exposure to basketball skills, rules and regulations and **most importantly having FUN!!**

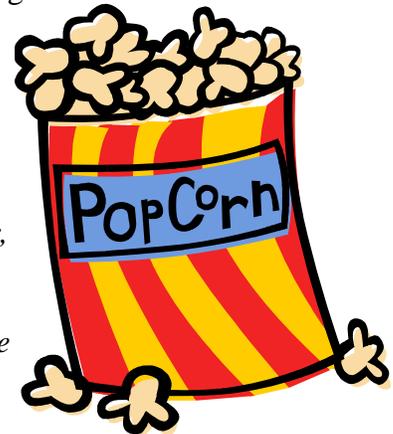
Registration will be accepted by mail or at the Parks & Community Services Office at the Benicia Community Center from October 1 – November 16. Space is limited, so turn in your registration as soon as possible. Last year, 500 children participate in this program. Volunteer coaches are needed. If you are interested please stop by for a coach packet!! – *Parks & Community Services*



**BENICIA FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE:** On Saturday, October 6, the Benicia Fire Department hosted an Open House in recognition of Fire Prevention Week. Over 175 visitors attended the event, which included tours of the firehouse, rides on an antique fire apparatus, a mini-fire muster for kids, and the opportunity to view fire department emergency response vehicles and equipment up close. The Benicia Emergency Response Team had representatives at the event to provide information and answer questions and the Benicia Amateur Radio Corp provided information on communications during a disaster, as well. Special thanks go to the Benicia Volunteer Firefighters for staffing the mini-muster, Benicia Fire Explorers for helping with Sparky the Fire Dog and assisting with the event as needed, Jay Garibaldi for driving the antique fire apparatus, Valero for donating the robotic fire hydrant and Mayor Patterson for attending the event. – *Fire Department*

**FREE ENTERTAINMENT:** Looking for an inexpensive evening? Given up cable but want to see the latest movies? Planning a road trip soon & need to keep the kiddies entertained?

Benicia Public Library has a large selection of DVDs including the [latest movies](#) for checkout – FREE. Here are the latest titles available: *Battleship, Safe, Snow White and the Huntsman, The Pirates! Band of Misfits, American Reunion, Bernie, The Dictator, The Five-Year Engagement, Think Like a Man, What to Expect When You're Expecting, For Greater Glory, The Lucky One, October Baby, The Cabin in the Woods*, and on Blu-Ray: *Coraline* and *Mirror, Mirror*. - Library



**EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS:** The Great California ShakeOut occurred on October 18 at 10:18 am. Millions of people were reminded to [Drop, Cover, and Hold On](#) during an earthquake.

Federal, State, and local emergency management experts and other official preparedness organizations all agree that “[Drop, Cover, and Hold On](#)” is the appropriate action to reduce injury and death during earthquakes. You cannot tell from the initial shaking if an earthquake will suddenly become intense...so always Drop, Cover, and Hold On immediately!

- **DROP** to the ground (before the earthquake drops you!),
- Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and
- **HOLD ON** to your shelter and be prepared to move with it until the shaking stops.

If there is no table or desk near you, drop to the ground and then if possible move to an inside corner of the room. Be in a crawling position to protect your vital organs and be ready to move if necessary, and cover your head and neck with your hands and arms. Do not move to another location or outside. Earthquakes occur without any warning and may be so violent that you cannot run or crawl. You are more likely to be injured if you try to move around during strong shaking. Also, you will never know if the initial jolt will turn out to be start of the big one...and that's why you should always Drop, Cover, and Hold On immediately! – *Fire Department*



**LAKE HERMAN PARKS RENOVATION:** The Parks crew completed the renovation at Lake Herman Park, which included adding new plant material and irrigation repairs. In addition, as a part of the Arbor Day Celebration, the Girls Scouts planted two oak trees at Lake Herman. As you can see, this project has made a huge impact on the natural beauty of Lake Herman. – Parks & Community Services



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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