

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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OCTOBER 31, 2011

For additional information on any of the items in this report, please see contact list at the end of this report.



**REI - RIDGE TRAIL SERVICE DAY:** Hundreds of volunteers will be converging on the Bay Area Ridge Trail (BART) **Nov. 5** to build and improve the trail during the 4th Annual REI – Ridge Trail Service Day.

Locally, the City of Benicia Parks & Community Services has joined forces with the BART council and its members, and REI Brentwood to spruce up the Vallejo-Benicia Buffer Trail, which is a significant East Bay link in the planned 550-mile Bay Area ridgeline trail.

Work will include repairing tread, replacing trail stairs, improving drainage, and pruning/ brushing back overgrown vegetation. No experience is necessary; volunteers must be at least 18 years of age (16- and 17-year-olds may participate with liability waivers signed by parents).

The morning will start off with breakfast goodies provided by REI and lunch will be provided compliments of Chipotle Mexican Grill. Volunteers will want to stick around after lunch as REI will give each person a special moisture-wicking “Volunteer” shirt (as supplies/sizes last). Door prizes will also be provided by REI and BART Council.

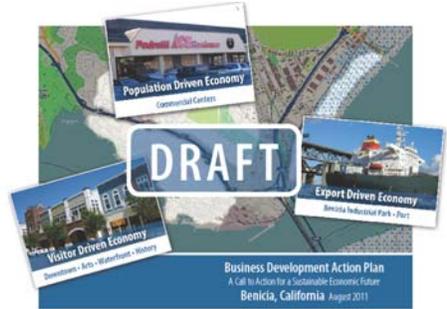
The Ridge Trail Service Day is estimated to run from **8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Pre-registration is required, and can be done so at <http://www.rei.com/event/30825/session/38376>. Registered volunteers should arrive early to allow for check-in at the **Channing Circle Park staging area**, located at 800 Channing Circle, Benicia. – *Parks & Community Services*



**LAWYERS IN THE LIBRARY:** The long anticipated Lawyers in the Library program is finally here! Starting November 3<sup>rd</sup>, local attorneys will be available to provide a consultation of up to twenty minutes – free of charge! Attorneys are volunteering to participate in this program on the first Thursday each month. Consultations start at 6 p.m. and are available until 8 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis, with signups beginning at 5 p.m. - *Library*



**DRAFT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:** “Working Together to Achieve Results” is the mantra of the Business Development Action Plan. In a joint meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup>, the City Council and Economic Development Board voted unanimously to accept the draft Plan and instructed staff to move forward with the 120-day lunch schedule for priorities. Those priorities include establishing a formal Business Retention/Expansion Program, forming a Streamline Permit Process Task Force, draft incentive or investment options for the Benicia Industrial Park, create an economic development website, work with existing businesses on opportunities, begin improvements to the Industrial Park infrastructure, and develop performance measures. Staff will be working on these priorities along with finalizing the plan for City Council approval as well as developing plans for staffing and funding the Plan. The Plan and its appendices are available on the [City’s website](#). – *Economic Development*



**PROJECT COMPLETED:** The Lake Herman Raw Water Transmission Line Cathodic Protection System Rehabilitation Project has been completed. Cathodic protection is used to insure that buried pipes are protected from pipeline related failures as a result of soil corrosion. This project will protect concrete coated steel transmission lines between the water treatment plant, Valero and Lake Herman. – *Public Works & Community Development*

**ANNUAL JACK-O-LANTERN CONTEST AND SCARY STORIES PROGRAM:** The annual event was held Wednesday, October 26 at the library. 70 people came to enter the contest, vote for their favorite pumpkin, or just to enjoy the imagination and skills used to create these intricate carvings. While the judges selected the winners, scary age-appropriate stories were told, ranging from the more gentle, less scary tales for younger children to stories for older, braver children and teens. If you didn’t make it to the program this year, check the [library calendar](#) next October, as this annual program is one you won’t want to miss! – *Library*



**DOG PARK:** The fall turf renovation project at the dog park was completed and opened on October 14. The new turf is lush and green, and looks great. The renovation of the turf will help the grass develop deep root systems that are better able to withstand the constant traffic at the park. – *Parks & Community Services*



**SOROPTIMIST GROVE:** Staff is beginning work at the Soroptimist Grove at Community Park. The project will consist of rough grading, and the installation of irrigation and plant material in a portion of the garden. Soroptimist International of Benicia donated \$10,000 to this project at the March 1, 2011 City Council meeting. This donation will assist with the improvements to the area. Soroptimist International of Benicia along with local volunteers will help with the installation of the plant material.



Soil has been delivered and once the rough grade is established we will begin installing the lateral irrigation lines and

borders. Staff hopes to be planting by the first or second week in November, but that will depend on plant availability. Our goal is to have this project complete by the end of November. – *Parks & Community Services*

**ARBOR DAY:** This year's Arbor Day event was a tremendous success. The event was held on Saturday, October 15, at City Park. The day consisted of live music, tree care demonstrations, guided tree walk, expert gardening advice, local art, crafts, green products, food and a plant sale sponsored by the California Native Plant Society. Overall attendance was up from the previous year. Mayor Patterson and Vice Mayor Schwartzman were on hand to present the winners of the tree challenge with new I Pads. – *Parks & Community Services*

**Community Center Parking Lot:** Installation of Solar Panels at the Community Center Parking Lot began on October 24<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that the panels will be installed by November 6. During the construction period the lot will remain closed, however there may be on occasion times the lot may open for a day or two. We encourage any one using the Community Center during construction to park on the south side of L Street. – *Parks & Community Services*



**COMPUTER AND INTERNET ASSISTANCE:** Good News! The Library has a computer docent available two days a week: Monday from 3:30 to 5:30 and Wednesday from 11:00 to 3:30.

The Computer Docent can assist in a variety of tasks including helping people set up emails, show how to attach documents, and how to download and print documents in email. The Docent also can provide general directions on how to use the Internet and give other help upon request. Contact the Library for more information. – *Library*

**FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE:** On Saturday, October 8, 2011 Benicia Fire Department hosted an Open House. The event was held at Fire Station 11 (150 Military West) and was

well attended. The Fire Department provided fire safety education and fun and games for the children in attendance. – *Fire Department*



**CERT EXERCISE:** On Saturday, October 15, 2011 Benicia, Cordelia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Travis AFB, Vacaville and Vallejo came together to coordinate the first annual [Solano County Community Emergency Response Team exercise](#). Solano Community College hosted the inaugural event.

Solano County CERT Teams exercised their skills and relied on their training to complete various tasks. These task included search and rescue, fire suppression, medical triage, rubble pile victim removal, and lift and carry exercises. Over 150 volunteers from all over Solano County participated in the drill. – *Fire Department*

**SAN FRANCISCO DE YOUNG MUSEUM VISIT FIRE MUSEUM:** On Friday, October 14, 2011



representatives from the De Young Museum, Benicia Volunteer Firemen, Inc. and the Fire Department met at the [Benicia Fire Museum](#) to discuss the Phoenix Engine. The Phoenix, a fire engine built in the 1820's, is believed to be the first fire engine to operate in California and is the centerpiece of the antique vehicle fleet. The Phoenix has been on long-term loan to the Benicia Fire Museum. The De Young Museum is contemplating gifting the Phoenix to Benicia. – *Fire*

*Department*

## **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: 707.746.4200**

**City Attorney: 707.746.4216**

**Finance Department: 707.746.4225**

**Fire Department: 707.746.4275**

**Library: 707.746.4343**

**Parks & Community Services: 707.746.4285**

**Police: 707.746.4265**

**Public Works & Community Development: 707.746.4240 or 746.4280**