

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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NOVEMBER 3, 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.

**NEW BENICIA BUSINESSES:** The following is a list of recent business license applications for new businesses or businesses with new locations or owners. Please stop by and make them feel welcome:

- **Bulls-Eye Marketing DBA: GoKarts USA** – 6610 Goodyear Road
- **AT&T Authorized Retailer# 1233** – 812 Southampton Road
- **Polished Skin and Body** – 919 First Street #3
- **Zeppelin Comics, LLC** – 191 East H Street
- **Art & Things by Gail Cocherell** – 129 First Street #F
- **J & A Enterprises** – 3001 Bayshore Road #23
- **Dianna's Café and Bakery** – 639 First Street/104 West G Street
- **Flavor Insights, LLC** – 4795 Industrial Way
- **Wilmington Instrument Co. Inc.** – 3195 Park Road, Ste C
- **UMA Distributors, LLC – DBA UMA Solar** – 537 Stone Road, Ste B
- **Annette Glass LMFT Counseling Services** – 821 East Second St., Ste 201E
- **Jamal Watters Optimal Level Therapeutic Services** – 1350 Hayes Street, Ste A-5AA
- **Carter's Biz Cafes** – 1 Commandants Lane
- **Terese Arntson** – 129 First Street #F
- **Montana Motorsports** – 5380 Gateway Plaza
- **Carla Goad, MFT** – 1440 Military West #103

- *Economic Development*



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**HOLIDAY CLOSURE:** Benicia City Offices, the Benicia Community Center and the Benicia Public Library will be closed **Wednesday, November 11** in observance of Veterans Day.

Requests for emergency water and sewer service may be made at the Benicia Police Department, 200 East L Street or 707.745.3411.  
– *City Manager's Office*



**INTERNS AT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT:** Benicia's Public Works Department is responsible for delivery of safe drinking water to our 28,000 residents, to the business network that supports our citizens, and to a diverse industrial community. Benicia's Water Treatment Plant (WTP) operates 24/7/365 and is staffed by six Water Operators. The work of treating a domestic water supply is complex, dynamic, and requires reasonable, independent judgment to act responsibly under conditions that can change without warning.



*Intern Kyle Killion*

So it comes as no surprise that Water Operators with the exceptional skill set necessary to meet these challenging circumstances are difficult to find. The City of Benicia has responded by opening our door to a select few interns that have passed the educational portion of water treatment certification by the State of California. Needing actual work experience to advance their certification levels, the City presents these operator candidates with valuable, real-life situations “up on the hill” under the watchful eye of a professional Water Operator.

Two recent interns, after training directly with Benicia Water Operators for 100 hours over 20 weeks, found full-time employment with water utilities in Fairfield and in Modesto.

The WTP has already reloaded with a new “crop” of interns actively apprenticing with City Water Operators. As part of this disciplined program, interns are learning the basics of operating our regulated, industrial facility through hands on participation in the laboratory, the chemical pump room, by observation of the treatment process, active management of filtering operations, and controlling the flow of treated water into the City's complex water distribution system. – *Public Works*



*Intern Julius Reano*

**SUPPORT A WORTHY CAUSE:** Many City of Benicia employees are members of Soroptimist International of Benicia. One of their many projects is building a Women's Resource Center and Safe House. Towards that end, they are holding a Holiday Grocery Raffle. Donations are \$10 per ticket for a chance to win a \$1,000.00 Raley's gift card! The drawing will be held on **Thursday, November 19**. Raffle tickets can be purchased at Benicia Main Street, 90 First Street. Good luck! – *City Attorney's Office*

Presented by Soroptimist International of Benicia

## Holiday Grocery Raffle



**You could win a \$1,000 Raley's Gift Card!**

**\$10 DONATION PER RAFFLE TICKET**

Drawing will be held on November 19, 2015

Raffle tickets for purchase from Soroptimist Members & Benicia Main Street



All proceeds to benefit Benicia projects, including the building of a Women's Resource Center and Safe House. Your donation is tax deductible - Tax ID: 94-2359493.

BENICIA PUBLIC LIBRARY AND  
BENICIA OLD TOWN THEATRE GROUP  
Presents a Staged Reading of

# The Other Woman

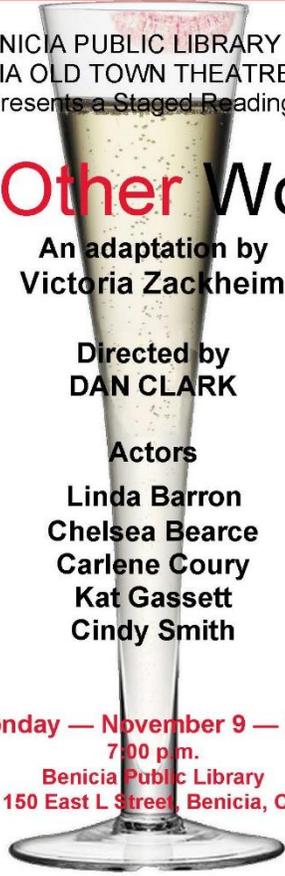
An adaptation by  
Victoria Zackheim

Directed by  
DAN CLARK

Actors

**FREE** Linda Barron **FREE**  
Chelsea Bearce  
Carlene Coury  
Kat Gasset  
Cindy Smith

Monday — November 9 — 2015  
7:00 p.m.  
Benicia Public Library  
150 East L Street, Benicia, CA



**UPCOMING EVENTS AT BENICIA PUBLIC LIBRARY:** The here are just some of the free upcoming events at the Benicia Public Library, 150 East L Street.

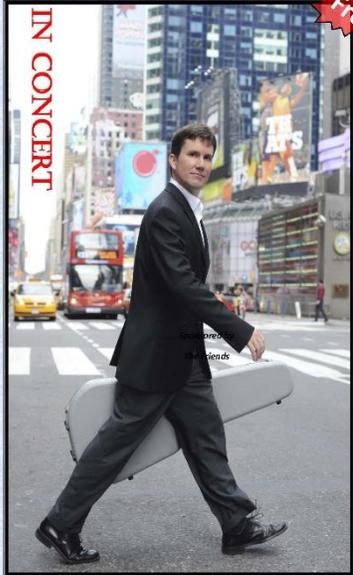
[Click here](#) for more information and more events at the Library. - *Library*

**Peter Fletcher**  
Camogie Hall - Classical Guitarist

**IN CONCERT**

**Free**

**SUNDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>**  
AT **6:00 P.M.**  
DONA BENICIA ROOM



Sponsored by  
The Friends of the Benicia Public Library

**BADGE PINNING CEREMONY:** Benicia Fire Department is hosting a Badge Pinning Ceremony on **Wednesday, November 18** at 9:00 AM at Fire Station 11, 150 Military East. The ceremony will recognize:

Gerardo Preciado, Engineer  
Kyle Tallett, Paramedic Firefighter  
Justin Stein, Paramedic Firefighter  
Kyle Williams, Paramedic Firefighter



Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony. – *Fire Department*

**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY:** The Saturday after Thanksgiving is the day to skip the mall,



shop small (Small, local, independent businesses, that is!). This single day has grown into a powerful movement, and more people are taking part than ever before. Benicia Main Street and the City of Benicia are sponsoring this year's event and invite you to spend your

shopping dollars in Benicia and celebrate the local businesses that make our town one-of-a-kind. There will be fun giveaways like designer shopping bags. [Click here](#) for a list of participating downtown businesses and keep your shopping dollar local. – *Economic Development*

**THE LUCKY WINNER:** The City of Benicia Community Development Department awarded the 1,000<sup>th</sup> building permit for 2015 on October 23.

Lucky winner Nasser Jijem of A+Waterworks received a “fabulous prize package” that included a pair of green rimmed sunglasses, a water-saving hose nozzle, a Power Ranger balloon, a yo-yo, glow-in-the-dark bracelets, a certificate suitable for framing, and many more items. The celebration included bells, horns, music and general frivolity. Congratulations Mr. Jijem! – *Community Development*



**UPDATE FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:** Here is a look at what the Public Works Department was up to this past month. Maybe they were in your neighborhood?

**Maintenance - Sewer:**

- **Customer Service Calls** - 300 St. Augustine, 800 West I Street, 200 Dundee Way, 100 La Prenda Avenue, 1000 West 3rd Street, 100 Vista Grande Avenue
- **City Wide Cleanings** - Service calls 1,785' feet, scheduled cleanings 6,655' feet and top-down cleanings 7,438' feet. Total sewer lines cleaned 15,878' or 3 miles out of 150 total.
- **Closed Circuit Televising** - In preparation of plans for street resurfacing, the Collections Team televised 2,305' feet of 8" inch sewer main on Southampton Road and 2,467' feet of 10" inch sewer main on Industrial Way. There were no pipe abnormalities viewed in these pipe segments so no repairs are needed before the resurfacing work.
- **Lift Station Cleanings** - Park Road, Benicia Industries, Industrial Way (Fleetside #1), and a WWTP vault were 4 of the city's 23 stations cleaned during the month of September. The city's stations are scheduled on a rotational basis, with a frequency based on type and volume of material to be cleaned.
- **Repairs and Improvements** - A section of 6" sewer main was replaced on Vista Grande Avenue. The existing main suffered from an offset joint between two pipe segments which was discovered during a routine cleaning inspection. A sewer utility manhole ring and lid was repaired on the 800 block of West I Street in response to a noise complaint.

**Maintenance – Water:**

- **Water Distribution Crew** - Water leak repairs for September: Replaced water service line 800 Channing Circle-two locations, 1100 West K Street, and 1400 Landahl Court. Water tap of a 2" water service 800 Channing Circle. Replaced water service line 800 Camden Court. Replaced angled meter stop 200 Panorama. Excavated for installation of 24" butterfly valve and tee at Park Road and Industrial Way. Completed monthly meter reading and scheduled turnoffs. Completed Underground Service Alerts for location of services.

**Maintenance – Streets:**

- **Streets Crew** – Street repair work for September: Patch paved 500 Willow Court, 300 Columbus Circle and 4700 East 2nd Street. Skin patched intersection of Buena Vista and El Paseo. Filled potholes on Reservoir Road and alley between 100 blk West J and I Streets. Filled potholes on West 7th Street and 600 First Street. Repaired sinkhole at Benicia Middle School. Cleared open drainage 4700 Industrial and behind 300 blk West K Street. Placed “no parking” signage and barricades on First Street for Fine Arts and Crafts Fair. Placed long barricades on Reservoir Road for Coastal Clean-up Day. Placed safety barricades on First Street for Farmers Market.

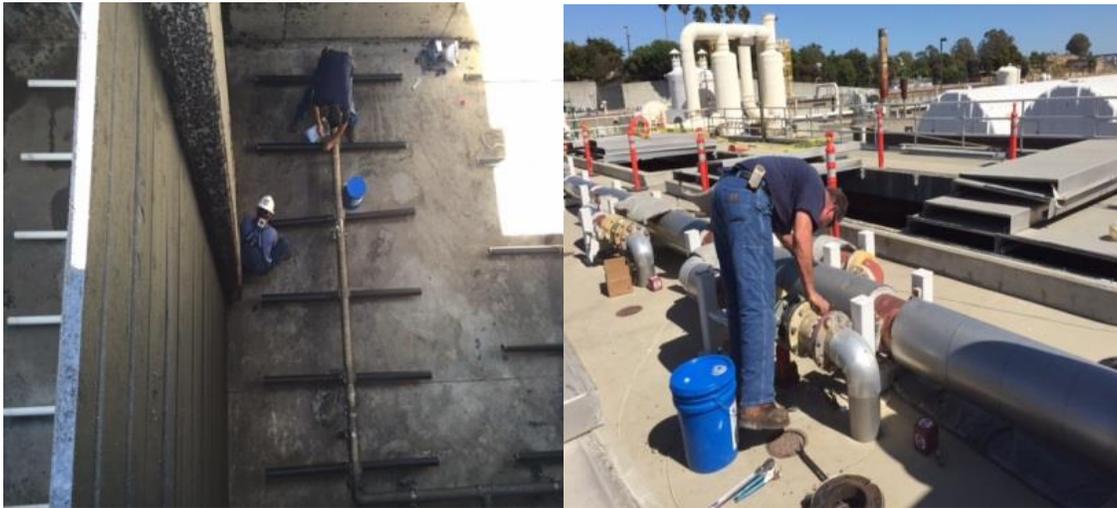
**Wastewater Treatment Plant- Projects:**

**Projects for September** – Staff started on refurbishing the aeration system which provides oxygen to the bacteria used to break down waste. This project is completed once every 10 years and will run several weeks. Staff will be replacing the air diffuser socks on the air

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dispersion system and replacing all of the gaskets throughout the air piping system. This should make the system more efficient and should show up in cost savings on power usage to the blowers. It will take a couple of months to see how well the process performs before we will be able to see just how much the savings will be.



Recycling wastewater at the Wastewater Treatment Plant has reduced the water bill by \$500 per month. Staff has also downsized one of our City water systems. This was done because of the amount of flow going through the four-inch system didn't help maintain the backflow prevention devices properly. So the system was down sized to a two-inch system and water meter. Out with the old and in with the new.



**Wastewater Treatment Plant - Maintenance:**

Staff performed seventy preventive maintenance tasks as well as three corrective maintenance work orders.

**WWTP Plant Performance:**

The Plant processed 67.21 million gallons of raw wastewater with no Permit exceedances. Nutrient pollution removal; Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) = 98 % Total Suspended Solids (TSS) = 99 %

The Effluent Acute Bioassay testing had a 92.5 survival rate.

- *City of Benicia Public Works Department*

**WRITERS WANTED:** The Benicia Public Library is looking for writers of all ages, novice or experienced, to help us out with our Collaborative Writing Project. They are also encouraging you to take part in National Novel Writing Month (NANOWRIMO). Read on for more details...



### **Collaborative Writing Project**

Benicia Public Library is looking for authors of all ages and writing abilities to take part in a collaborative writing event. Every year, people from around the world experience National Novel Writing Month by trying to crank out the first draft of a 50,000 word novel in just 30 days (or 25,000 if you are under 18). If you are interested in NANOWRIMO but a whole novel is just too much, join the Benicia Public Library's project. By signing up at [BeniciaLibrary.org/nanowrimo-short-story-event-registration](http://BeniciaLibrary.org/nanowrimo-short-story-event-registration), you are committing to write a short story of just 1,000 words during the month of November! (You may choose to write alone or with a group of people.) Everyone who signs up will begin their work with the same story starter, which will be released on Halloween! (We will email you the story starter to the address you registered for the project as well as post it on our website.) You will have until **Sunday, November 29** at 11:59 PM to email your work to [teenzone@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:teenzone@ci.benicia.ca.us). (We need it one day early so we can send it in to NANOWRIMO by 11:59 PM on November 30.)

### **NANOWRIMO:**

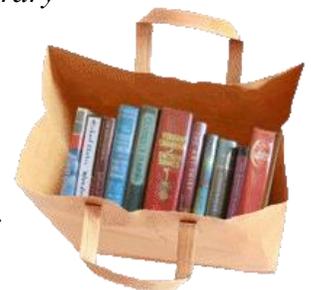
What do Water for Elephants, Anna and the French Kiss and Fangirl all have in common? They started as NaNoWriMo projects! National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) offers a fun approach to creative writing. On November 1, aspiring authors begin working towards the goal of a 50,000-word by 11:59 PM on **November 30**. For more information on NaNoWriMo go to [www.nanowrimo.org](http://www.nanowrimo.org). The Benicia Public Library will offer authors a quiet place to write during our regular business hours in the month of November as well as a few special "Come Write In" events. Come Write In events will take place in the Doña Benicia Room of the Benicia Public Library. The Library will be open for 233 regular hours during November!

### **Come Write In Events:**

- Tuesday, November 10, 6:30-8:30 PM
- Saturday, November 14, 4:00-8:00 PM (after hours at the Benicia Public Library)
- Monday, November 23, 4:00-8:00 PM
- Sunday, November 29, 6:00-8:00 PM (after hours at the Benicia Public Library)

For more information, contact [Brandi Bette Smead](mailto:Brandi.Bette.Smead@ci.benicia.ca.us) at 707.746.4345. – *Library*

**BOOK SALE:** Don't miss The Friends of the Library \$5 Bag Sale on **Saturday, November 14**, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM in the basement of the Benicia Public Library, 150 East L Street. There will be a special sale for [Friends of the Library](#) members on Thursday, 6:00-8:00 PM. - *Library*



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**FARMERS MARKET SEASON COMES TO A CLOSE:** Every Thursday afternoon since April, you, your fellow Benicians and people from neighboring communities have come out to enjoy Benicia's Farmers Market. The Market had an amazing turnout this year with the number of market attendees exceeding 98,000 people or an average of 3,600 per week!

Almost 2,000 of you (over the course of the market, averaging about 71 people per week) stopped by the City of Benicia booth to find out information about the City and upcoming events. You may have picked up information about Open Government such as the *Brown Act* and *Your Guide to Participating in City Council Meetings* booklets, as well as short how to's on locating public documents on the City's website and making comments and suggestions to the City from the Open Government Commission or *Visit Benicia* tourism information including downtown shop and historic landmark maps and flyers for upcoming events from the Tourism Committee. Many of you may have also seen many other boards, commissions, and departments including the Parks and Community Services Department distributing the Spring and Summer Activity Guides, the Library promoting the Benicia Film Festival and other library events, the Police Chief or Assistant City Manager answering questions, and the Human Services Board promoting the annual Oktoberfest fundraiser.

Notably, you probably picked up one or more of the 813 free water conservation giveaways distributed by the City with conservation information, or may have been one of 180 people who asked general "Who Are We?" questions, or one of the 49 new folks in town who asked for directions and city information, or one of our 379 good friends who just stopped by to say "Hi". The Open Government Commission even began distributing a flyer to all of you called the *Open Government Update* to highlight new actions of the City Council including planned projects like the Columbus Parkway/Rose Drive Intersection Improvement Project, completed projects like the Measure C funded Community Park Play Equipment Replacement, upcoming Council meetings and events, proclamations and more.



Water Conservation Starts with You! In light of California's drought, the City and especially the Public Works Department has made Water Conservation and Education a top priority, so you probably saw the Open Government Commission and Public Works Department reminding everyone to conserve water. You received information on watering restrictions and opportunities for rebates for water savings such as turf replacement and water efficient washers with your free water conservation items help conserve water like low-flow shower heads, bathroom and kitchen sink aerators, soil moisture regulators, garden gloves and screwdrivers to help repair sprinkler leaks, watering hose nozzles with hand held shut off, and 5-minute shower timers.

Look for the City of Benicia booth at the 2016 Benicia Farmers Market which returns on Thursday, April 28. – *City Attorney's Office*

**FIRE TRAINING:** On October 22, the Benicia Fire Department sent two engine companies, along with the department's three new apprentice Firefighter Paramedics, to the Hayward Fire training and burn tower. The day was spent performing multiple live fire scenarios. The apprentice firefighters were able to train on hose



handling, air management, victim rescue, and various other skills while under the extreme heat and smoke of live fire conditions. The Hayward Fire Department graciously allowed the use of their training facility. The three apprentice firefighter paramedics wrapped up their three week orientation academy on Friday, October 23 and are now assigned to their respective shifts. – *Fire Department*

**ARTS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS:** Arts Benicia Presents is an adjunct, outreach program of Arts Benicia. Through this program, Arts Benicia hosts sixteen member artist solo exhibitions per year at four locations: The Rellik Tavern, Olson Realty, Inc., Birnbaum Realty and Benicia City Council Chambers.

The current exhibit in the City Council Chambers is by artist Cherry Moore. According to Arts Benicia, Moore's work is always abstract. It is what she is drawn to, what she visualizes. She loves the printmaking process and the anticipation of making a piece. She has worked in ceramics, encaustic, printmaking, and acrylics over the last 25 years and has finally determined that printmaking and acrylics are her favorite media.



Moore's exhibit runs October 26, 2015-January 25, 2016. The Council Chambers, at 250 East L Street, are open during public meetings and may be opened upon request by contacting the City Manager's Office at 707.746.4200. Arts Benicia thanks the Benicia Arts and Culture Commission for sponsoring Arts Benicia Presents Receptions at Benicia City Hall. – *City Manager's Office*

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

- [Maintenance Worker III/Parks & CS](#), full-time, 11/13/15
- [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*

**SMOKE ALARM INSTALLATION:** The Benicia Fire Department participated in the 2015



Solano County Smoke Alarm Installation Project on Saturday, October 24. The event was coordinated by the American Red Cross, Rebuilding Together Solano, and the Benicia Fire Department. 50 Benicia volunteers installed more

than 150 smoke alarms in Rancho Benicia mobile home park. In addition, residents were given fire safety and disaster preparedness tips. They had a great day interacting with our citizens to create a safer living environment for all! – *Fire Department*



*Engineer Ricardo Netro hard at work*



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

**GRADUATION OF CLASS 30:** The Benicia Emergency Response Team (BERT), a volunteer organization under the supervision of the Benicia Fire Department, is proud to announce the recent graduation of Class #30. The program was founded and first implemented by the San Francisco Fire Department in 1990 following the mass community effort during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. The Benicia Emergency Response Team program is an adoption of the San Francisco concept and one of many throughout the Bay Area. The goal of the BERT program is to help the citizens of Benicia to become more self-sufficient following a major disaster by developing multifunctional teams that are cross trained in basic survival skills. Volunteers learn basic skills that are most commonly used in disasters.

[Click here](#) to find out more about BERT. – *Fire Department*



**SENIOR SPEAKER SERIES CONTINUES:** The [Carquinez Village Project](#) and the [Benicia Public Library](#) continue their presentation of the 2015 Senior Speaker Series on the third Thursday of the month, 10:30 - 11:15 AM at the Benicia Public Library Dona Benicia Room. The next presentation is on **Thursday, November 19:**



**Smart Strategies for Managing Your Money** by Frances Harkins, Certified Financial Planner, North Capitol, Inc.

The Senior Speaker Series is free to attend. – *Library*

**SHOUT-OUT FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY:** Seen recently on the [U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy](#) Facebook page:

Driving electric becomes even greener when your car is powered by the sun and excess energy is stored for future use. Our Workplace Charging Challenge partner, the [City of Benicia](#), California, harnesses solar energy to fuel its employees' plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) and stores energy generated in batteries so cars can charge even when the sun is not shining. By installing charging stations that run on carport solar power, this project reduces electricity costs from PEV charging and overall energy costs for the city. In fact, the city and its partners won [Environmental Leader](#) magazine's 2015 Product and Project Hall of Fame award for this effort. Learn how your employer can make your workplace more PEV friendly, and follow the example set by the City of Benicia and our other partners:

<http://go.usa.gov/3Kvbk>.

– *Community Development*



**EMERGENCY TRAINING:** All City of Benicia employees recently received Incident Command System (ICS) training taught by Police Chief Erik Upson and Fire Chief Jim Lydon. The training combined ICS/Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)/National Incident Management System (NIMS) Basic curriculum. The training also covered Multiagency Coordination Systems and Mutual Aid.

In addition, Admin Secretary Kelly Botello, Lt. Mike Greene, Sgt. Damiean Sylvester, and Records Clerk Suzie Kaluza of Benicia Police Department attended a 32-hour course in Earthquake Emergency Management. The course introduced key emergency management principles and practices using a complex earthquake scenario.



These training session highlight the City's ongoing efforts to be better prepared for an emergency. – *Police Department*

**HALLOWEEN POTLUCK:** City staff celebrated Halloween on October 29 with a potluck lunch in the City Hall courtyard. Employees competed in individual and group costume contests. Individual winner was Admin Clerk Marilyn Cech as Alice in Wonderland. Group entries tied for the win. They were the Finance Department as Rosie the Riveters and the Public Works/Community Development Departments as Street Signs. It was a fun opportunity for staff to spend time with their co-workers. – *Human Resources*



*Economic Development Manager Mario Giuliani's son Evan the Dragon photobombs Cech and pirate City Attorney Heather McLaughlin.*

**SCARECROW WINNERS:** Benicia Main Streets 8<sup>th</sup> annual Scarecrow Contest ended in mid-month while scarecrows remained on display through October. Residents and visitors were treated to the creativity of Benicia businesses showing off their imaginatively created scarecrows. Several were on display outside of City of Benicia offices. [Click here](#) to view the Scarecrow Contest 2015 Gallery.



Votes were cast for People's Choice. Winners were #1-Angel Heart 4 You, #2 Camellia Tea Room, and #3 Vallejos Tae Kwon Do. Mystery Judges also made picks. They were #1 Camellia Tea Room, #2 Double Rainbow Ice Cream, and #3 Benicia Police Department. Congratulations to Lisa Krinsky, Suzy Kaluza and Kelly Botello of the Benicia Police Department for their creativity. – *Police 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**