

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

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NOVEMBER 4, 2013

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



VALERO BENICIA REFINERY GIVE \$375K TO LOCAL CHARITIES: At the Wednesday, October 30, presentation ceremony, Valero Benicia Vice President and General Manager John Hill, presented 28 children’s charities with grants totaling \$375,000. The funds were raised through the 2013 Valero Texas Open and Benefit for Children Golf Classic held in San Antonio, Texas last April. The 28 charities were all nominated by refinery employees.

This year’s event raised a record \$10 million for charities, raising the 12-year sponsorship to \$81.5 million. Since 2001, Valero Benicia Refinery has distributed nearly \$4 million in Benefit for Children grants. Among the recipients this year were local organizations:

- Benicia Community Action Council (\$20,000)
- Benicia Education Foundation (\$25,000)
- Benicia Historical Museum (\$10,000)
- Benicia Little League (\$10,000)
- Friends of Benicia Public Library-Children’s Library (\$15,000)
- Voena-Voices of Eve ‘N Angels (\$10,000).

– *City Manager’s Office*



FIRST TUESDAY POETRY GATHERING: Join poets and poetry lovers for an evening of sharing verse on **Tuesday, November 5, 6:30-9:00PM** in the Dona Benicia Room at the Benicia Public Library. Robert Shelby will be featured, speaking about the poetry style of Robert Burns. Refreshments will be served. – *Library*

First Tuesday Poetry

Dona Benicia Room
6:30 p.m.

FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE:

Didn't get your flu shot yet? Free flu shots are available to all members of the public on **Thursday, November 14, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM** at the Benicia Senior Center at East 2nd & L Streets. For more information, call 707.784.8077. – *Library*

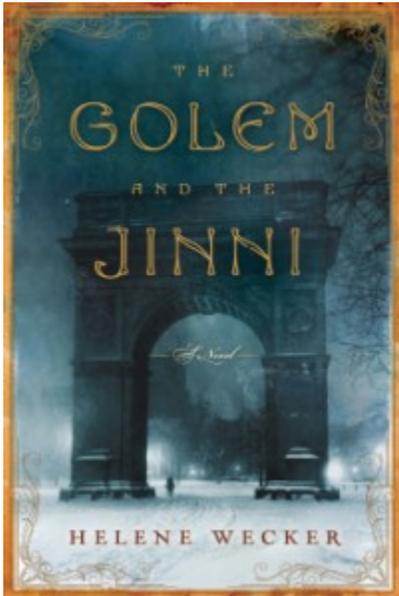


FAST & Free!
FLU CLINIC

November 14, 2013
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Benicia Senior Center
187 East L St.
Benicia, CA 94510
Seasonal Flu vaccination will be available.

Please call the Solano County Immunization Program for more details at 707-784-8077.

MEET THE AUTHOR EVENT:



Benicia Public Library invites you to meet Helene Wecker, author of the bestselling novel *The Golem and the Jinni* on **Wednesday, November 6** at 7:00 PM. Come meet Helene and hear about her experiences writing this national best-selling book. *The Golem and the Jinni* is an immigrant tale that combines elements of Jewish and Arab folk mythology, telling the story of two supernatural creatures who arrive separately in New York in 1899. - *Library*

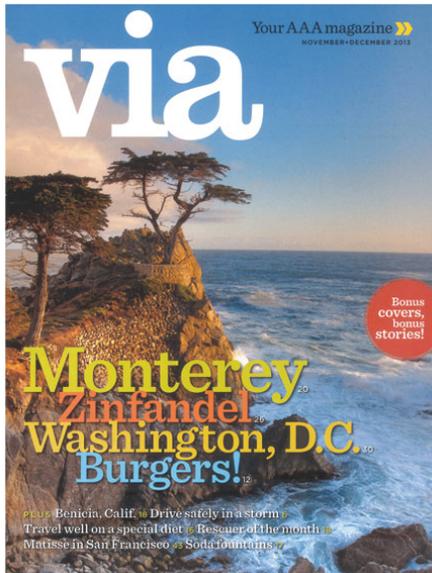


RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT: If you've visited the Parks & Community Services Department in the past 25 years, you are sure to know Martha Core. She is one of the friendly faces you see at the reception counter. Martha has announced that she is retiring on **November 26**.

Over the past 25 years, we often hear from our citizens and city staff of Martha's kindness and willingness to go above and beyond her job duties on a daily basis. Martha's hard work and contribution to the Parks & Community Services Department have impacted the lives of so many in the community.



Martha is looking forward to spending more time with her family and friends. If you have an opportunity, stop by before November 26 to congratulate her and wish her well. – *Parks & Community Services*



WEEKENDER
Benicia, California

Benicia is a bustling 19th-century port on the Carquinez Strait. Benicia was California's third incorporated city and served as its capital for 13 months, beginning in 1851. Today the sweeping waterfront vistas remain, as well as Victorian homes, artist studios, and a lively mix of independent galleries, shops, and restaurants along First Street. Area code is 707.

- Luminous vases, perfume bottles, bowls, and Christmas ornaments fill Lindsay Art Glass, which carries work by its owner and 50 more artists from around the country. In the workshop you can often watch glassblowing. 109 East First St., 748-1196, lindsayartglass.com.
- Head to the Camellia Tea Room and pair Darjeeling or one of more than 40 other teas with finger sandwiches, curry chicken salad, or scones with jam and rich Devon cream. 818 First St., 746-1193, camelliatearoom.com.
- Craft gallery meets gift shop at Studio 48, where the mostly U.S.-made goods include hand-turned wooden bowls, diaphanous scarves, kids' colorable place mats, and wicker picnic hampers with service for four. 700 First St., 749-0154, studio48.com.
- You almost expect legislators from yesterday to materialize at the Benicia Capitol State Historic Park. In the restored senate and assembly chambers of the redbrick building, portbellied



BENICIA IN VIA: Good news! Benicia is featured in the Weekender section of the November / December issue of AAA's *VIA magazine*. *VIA* has a distribution of 2.5 million for each edition. Local businesses are already reporting visitors who say they've never been to Benicia but read about it in *VIA*! [Click here](#) to see the article. – *Economic Development*

SUGGESTIONS FOR A GOOD READ: The Benicia Public Library invites you to An Evening with Ron Shoop of Random House Books on **Tuesday,**

November 12 at 7:00 PM in the Library's Dona Benicia Room. Come and get ideas about books for gift giving and your personal reading, and learn a bit about the book business as well, from someone who has been in the biz since 1968.

The Library is lucky to have Ron Shoop as their Random House book rep. (Do you know that behind the scenes there are dedicated folk who live and breathe books and visit the Library or talk to staff on the phone about their publishers' list of new titles?) Ron spent several years of retail under Fred Cody in Berkeley, worked in wholesale for 23 years, and has been a book rep for the last 17 years. He sells and markets Random House books, the world's largest English language trade publisher, to northern California independent bookstores and works with local libraries. Ron knows books! – *Library*



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

- [Family Resource Coordinator I](#) (Grant Funded), closing **November 21**
- [Police Officer – Lateral](#), which is 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*

T EEN INTERVIEW WORKSHOP: Create a personalized resume and bring two copies of it to the Teen Interview Workshop on **Saturday, November 16**, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. (If you need help writing a resume, find the link to Cypress Resume, a new database, on the Library's teen web page: www.BeniciaLibrary.org/teens.) Dress in interview-appropriate clothing and be prepared to have a mock interview conducted by local business professionals. This gives you an opportunity to practice your interview skills and interviewers will give you feedback about your interview, resume and clothing. – *Library*



FIRE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS: Over the past 18-months, the Benicia Fire Department has been in a state of transition with its upper and mid-management members. During that time, several members have been filling acting or interim roles in various positions. In the last week of October, the department completed a promotional exam process for the position of Division Chief, which provided the Fire Chief the opportunity to select one of three candidates for promotion.

On October 29, Fire Chief Jim Lydon announced the promotion of K.C. Smith to the position of Division Chief. K.C. joined the Department in 1990 as a Firefighter/Paramedic. He was promoted to Captain in 2000 and has served in the role of Acting Division Chief since June 2012. The promotion of Chief Smith resulted in an opening for the position of Fire Captain.



Chief Lydon selected Jared (Jed) Matcham for appointment to that position. Jed joined the department in 2002, also as a Firefighter/Paramedic. He was promoted to Engineer in 2010 and has been serving for many months in the role of Interim Captain.

Both K.C.'s and Jed's promotions were effective November 1. The Fire Department invites you to the Badge Pinning/Promotional Ceremony on **Thursday, November 14**, at 10:30 AM at Fire Station 11. Light refreshments will be served. Please join me in congratulating K.C. and Jed. – *Fire Department*



CHANGE YOUR CLOCK – CHANGE YOUR BATTERY: Fall is upon us. Now that you've set your clocks back one hour, that's a reminder that it's time to **CHANGE THE BATTERY IN YOUR HOME'S SMOKE ALARM.**

The Benicia Fire Department is reminding everyone who has a battery operated or battery back-up smoke alarm in their home to replace the battery at least one time per year. In order to make that easier, the department is offering free 9-volt batteries to all citizens of Benicia. To receive your free smoke alarm battery, stop by any Benicia fire station during regular business hours and we will give you a new one (*limit 4 per household while supplies last*).



The department reminds everyone to have a smoke alarm in all hallways leading to sleeping rooms, in every bedroom, and at least one on every level of your home. During a fire, smoke alarms, when properly installed and working, will give enough warning so that you and your family can escape before the fire becomes deadly. Always crawl low in smoke, have at least two ways out of your home, and call 911 from a neighbor's home. Working smoke alarms save lives!

If you need assistance installing your new battery, call the Fire Department at 746-4275 during regular business hours and we will be happy to set up a time to come to your home and help you. – *Fire Department*

BENICIA POLICE ASSIST WITH ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL FUN RUN EVENT: On October 25, Benicia Police School Resource Officer Sam Peterson and Benicia Police Traffic Officer Fred Ayala assisted St. Dominic School with their annual "FUN RUN." In addition, the Benicia Police Officers' Association donated \$500 to purchase shirts the students wore during the Run. The student runners began at St. Dominic School and ran to Fitzgerald Field and then ran back, finishing at the school. This was a fun event for all who participated, fostering a positive relationship between the Police Department and our youth. – *Police Department*



HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION: Staff at the Benicia Community Center love to celebrate Halloween. Teachers and children come to school in costume and participate in many Halloween activities throughout the day. The best part is seeing the Tiny Tots Pre-School students dress up and Trick-or-Treating in the halls. Groups of children go from classroom to classroom in the Community Center and are excited to see their parents and grandparents behind each door handing out treats. Classes wrap up the celebration at the end of the day with a Halloween Parade around the Community Center for parents to enjoy.



The costumes seem to get more creative and adorable each year. Future public service employees were well represented in the form of a police officer, fire fighter, garbage truck driver, doctor, and a future city attorney (our current City Attorney is a big Minnie Mouse fan!). – *Parks & Community Services*



BENICIA FIRE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN FOURTH ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT:



The Benicia Fire Department participated in Northgate Christian Fellowship's 4th

annual Trunk or Treat event held in the Solano Square Shopping Center on Halloween evening. The event provided a fun, safe, family environment where Trunk-or-Treaters could go from trunk to trunk of decorated cars collecting candy.

The Fire Department crew reported that there were thousands of people in attendance, with the event growing significantly in

size since last year.

Firefighter Matt Murphy dressed in full turnout gear, which was a great success with the attendees. Many pictures were taken by the public with the crew and the rescue vehicle, and a great time was had by all. – *Fire Department*

RED RIBBON WEEK: The Benicia Police Department and Benicia Youth Action Coalition supported Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31.

Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest national drug prevention campaign and commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who died at the hands of drug traffickers in Mexico in 1985.

At the October 16 City Council meeting, Mayor Patterson read a special Red Ribbon Week Proclamation. Benicia High School leadership student Cierra Williamson and Police Department Youth Action Coalition Coordinator, Patti Baron were on hand for the presentation. Cierra announced the fun student activities scheduled to take place at the high school during the week to promote a drug free life. Students at the Middle School and at Liberty High also participated in various activities to promote Red Ribbon Week. The Youth Action Coalition supported the schools by providing red wrist bands that were handed out to students during the activities. In addition, Benicia Police patrol units and officers donned red ribbons to remind the community of Red Ribbon Week. – *Police Department*



Photo courtesy of Benicia Herald

UPDATE ON CLEANTECH EXPO 2013: It is estimated that 600-800 people attended the annual two-day CleanTech Expo on October 18 & 19 at the Clock Tower. The event was co-sponsored by City of Benicia Community Sustainability Commission and the City of Benicia Office of Economic Development. Among the many vendors were Sonoma State University - Center for Sustainable Communities, e-bike vendors, SolTrans, electric vehicle dealers, home & business energy efficiency companies, and the Office of Economic Development encouraging businesses to check out the City's Business Resource Incentive Program (BRIP).

Attendees were able to talk to vendors, gain an up-to-date perspective on the industry and emerging technologies, and try out products like e-bikes along with participating in workshops and informative seminars. More info is available at [CleanTechExpo 2013](#). – *Economic Development*



BENICIA PD HOSTS PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK: On Saturday, October 26, the Benicia Police Department, in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Agency's National "Prescription Take Back" Initiative, the Benicia Police Department's Youth Action Coalition and the Solano County Board of Supervisors Reducing Rates-Drug Free Communities hosted the bi-annual Prescription Drug Take-Back event. This was the sixth time the Police Department has participated in this event. BPD Community Service Officer Patti Baron proclaimed this year's event was another great success. Benicia PD Volunteers Ron "Doc" Uhlman, Dick Meyer and Bruce Shea, Dick Meyer, and Art Schipper spent four hours accepting medications. In total, 139 Benicia residents and nine City of Vallejo residents returned approximately 185 lbs. of unwanted prescription drugs.



This important program addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescriptions drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines - flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash - poses potential safety and health hazards. If you missed this one, look for future Prescription Take-Back events in the new year. – *Police Department*

UPDATE ON VACANCY IN BIP: Good news on the real estate front comes to us from Colliers International, commercial real estate brokers covering Solano, Napa, and parts of Contra Costa counties. Collier's recently released market reports indicates the industrial and office markets in Solano and Napa counties experienced "significant vacancy decline" for the second consecutive quarter.



The industrial vacancy rate declined to 8.1 percent, a 1.3 percent point drop from the previous quarter and a 3.9 percent point drop from 2012. In contrast, the office vacancy rate in Solano and Napa counties was unable to continue its positive momentum as vacancy remained unchanged at 22.9% in the third quarter. Locally, the vacancy rate declined again for the fifth consecutive quarter, by 1.7% to 10.0%.

Lease and sales activity included the lease of 80Ksq/ft at 451 & 457 Stone Road to Santa Clara Warehouses, and the sale of 43,478sq/ft at 325-361 West Channel Road to Alamillo Steel.

Solano and Napa counties office market vacancy rate remains unchanged at 22.9%. Benicia's office vacancy remains much lower at 0.8%. – *Economic Development*

TREE NEWS: October was a good month for trees in Benicia. On October 9, the City of Benicia partnered with the Benicia Tree Foundation and local Girl Scouts to plant trees at Bridgeview Park.



On October 12, the City of Benicia partnered with the Benicia Tree Foundation to hold our annual Arbor Day celebration at City Park. The winners of the Benicia Tree Foundation's art challenge were announced at the event. Congratulations to the winners:

High School - Rachel Kravitz

Middle School - Mara Guerin

Each won a new Google Nexus 7 tablet computer. – *Parks & Community Services*



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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

The City Manager's Report from City of Benicia City Manager Brad Kilger is published semi-monthly. 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**