

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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**NOVEMBER 14, 2011**

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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**SOUTHAMPTON PARK:** The contract to begin work on the retaining wall at Southampton Park was approved and awarded by City Council on November 1. Construction on the wall will begin in mid-November and is scheduled to be completed by early December. The scope of the project will consist of removing and replacing the damaged wall and cyclone fence. – *Parks & Community Services*



**COMMUNITY CENTER SIGNS:** Exterior signs have been installed at the Community Center in the parking lot area, K Street entrance, and directional signs on the building. These signs will assist the patrons in finding their way around the facility. Staff will evaluate the signs and may install more in the future. – *Parks & Community Services*



**SOROPTIMIST GROVE:** Staff is continuing work on the Soroptimist Grove at Community Park. Soil has been installed along with the lateral lines for irrigation. Staff is working on installing a border around the perimeter of the area that will be planted. Staff is anticipating the plant material will be planted by the end of November. – *Parks & Community Services*



**COMMUNITY CENTER PARKING LOT:**

Installation of Solar Panels at the Community Center parking area is continuing. Foundations for the panels have been completed, and the installation of the panels will begin on November 14. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by early December. 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 anyone using the Community Center during construction to park on the south side of L Street. – *Parks & Community Services*



**BUSINESS UPDATE:** New on the business front, we have a new market open on First Street. Bela (pronounced bee-la) at 632 First Street offers fresh produce, organic foods and soda by the bottle perfect for a quick stop when out for a walk. In the Benicia Industrial Park, Cytosport, makers of Muscle Milk and Cytomax sports drinks, will expand their operations in Benicia and open a new production line creating 30+ new full-time jobs in Benicia.



Benicia kicks off the holiday season on Friday, December 2 with the [Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting Ceremony](#) from 6:00-9:00 pm. The street will be closed to traffic and full of families enjoying the music of Kris Kringle and the Mistletones, costumed carolers, horse drawn carriage rides and wine tasting for the adults. Santa will light the tree at the foot of First Street and merchants will offer refreshments and special sales to help find the perfect gift. – *Economic Development*

**LIBRARY NEWSLETTER:** [October's newsletter](#) includes information on programs coming in the next month or two, and [November's newsletter](#) includes information on the annual report and a comparison of some statistics on use of the Benicia Public Library with those in other parts of the state. The Library newsletter is available on the [Library's website](#) or at the kiosk in the Library. – *Library*

**FINAL WORD FORUM:** On Saturday November 5, the Open Government Commission hosted the "Final Word" forum to allow candidates for City Council and Mayor to address any last minute "hit pieces" circulated the last 2 weeks before the election. The forum was well attended by about 30 people. Although there were no last minute hit pieces for the candidates to address, the candidates responded to a variety of questions from the audience. Larry Fullington, Commissioner of the Open Government Commission, moderated the "Final Word", which was televised and re-aired on Monday. – *City Attorney*

**EAST K STREET NATURAL GAS LEAK:** October 12, representatives from the Benicia Fire Department, Police Department, Management Information Systems, Parks and Community Services and Public Works Department met to discuss the incident involving a natural gas leak to the rear of the Benicia City Hall. The following is an overview of the incident and some additional information for clarification:

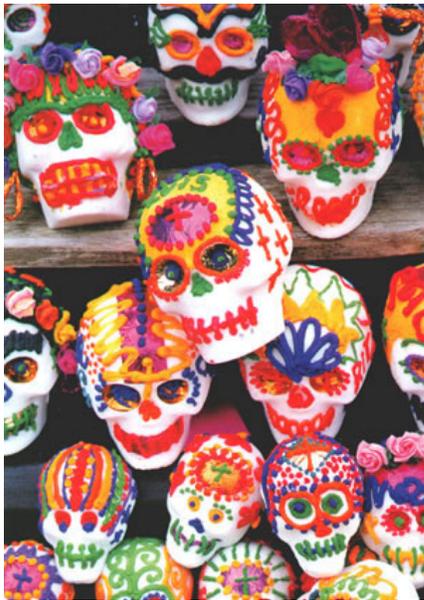
On October 3, at 12:08 PM, Benicia Fire units were dispatched to a possible natural gas leak to the rear of City Hall on East K Street. On arrival, fire crews determined the source of the leak was from a 4" diameter high-pressure natural gas feeder pipe. Fire crews shut down heavy equipment to the rear of City Hall and began evacuating City buildings as well as residences along East K from East Second to East Third. In cooperation with Benicia Police and Public Works employees, the intersections of First Street and K, East Second and Military East, East L and East Third, East K and East Third, East Second and East J were blocked with barricades to isolate traffic from the area. Police directed traffic at the intersection of East Second and Military East. Medic Ambulance staged an ambulance at East Second and East K Streets. Valero employees used natural gas detectors to monitor explosive levels in the area. The Benicia Community Center was designated as an evacuation center and Red Cross was requested to help staff the facility. Red Cross was cancelled prior to their arrival. The Benicia Post Office was directed to have their personnel shelter in place as well as the residents on the north side of East L between East Second and East Third. The Benicia Library, Senior Center, Police Department and City Hall were evacuated. The Benicia Police and Fire Dispatch personnel were relocated to Benicia Fire Station 11 where they set up a temporary dispatch center. PG&E personnel controlled the gas leak at 2:30 PM. A PG&E representative evaluated all evacuated City facilities prior to City employees being allowed back in.

Overall the incident went well. There were some questions that came up concerning our residential evacuation procedures and the use of the Community Alert and Notification (C.A.N.) System. The only residences that were evacuated were located on East K Street, so we were able to utilize police and fire members going door to door to evacuate the area very quickly. For large area evacuations, we have a public address radio system in our fire apparatus. The C.A.N. System was utilized with a generic message, but due to the relocation of the dispatch center, more detailed information was not sent out. We are working on being able to send out C.A.N. System messages remotely from dispatch. In addition, we are working on a link to the school district through the C.A.N. System for early notification. We are also working with Solano County to be able to utilize the Solano County City Watch Phone System, which will be an additional method of sending emergency information to our community. - *Fire Department*

**PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED:** High visibility crosswalks have recently been installed on the West 7th Street corridor at Cheryl Drive, Buena Vista/Carolina, and Military West. They are on safe routes to school for Mary Farmar Elementary, the Benicia Middle School, and Benicia High School and are in heavy use. - *Public Works & Community Development*



**DIA DE LOS MUERTOS (DAY OF THE DEAD) TEEN EVENT AT THE LIBRARY:** [Day of the Dead](#)



is a strongly spiritual time - full of tradition, story-telling and expressions of love for those dear departed loved ones. Mexicans understand a beautiful simple truth about life - it is good to honor your loved ones who have passed on. It's a good thing to continue to remember them, learn from them and share your feelings with them. It's good to teach your children how to express their love as much as it is to reassure aging folks that they won't be forgotten. On Saturday, November 5, teens had a Day of the Dead skull decorating party at the library. Teens decorated 50 skulls in memory of those who have passed away. Library staff received a number of requests from young adults and families,



asking if they could participate, and next year the library hopes to expand the event to include families as well as teens. Sugar skull making [recipe](#) for Day of the Dead or other occasions is available on the [Benicia Library Teen Zone facebook](#) page. - *Library*

**STREET PROJECTS:** The East 2nd Street water line has been installed, and street resurfacing is nearing completion. Resurfacing of Columbus Parkway is underway and is scheduled to be completed before the end of November. – *Public Works & Community Development*



**LEADERSHIP AWARD:** Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Scott Rovanpera has received the 2011 Section Leadership Award for his time, commitment and service as Chair of the Water Quality Division of the California/Nevada Section of the American Water Works Association. Scott was also granted lifetime membership as a result of his 30 years of service to the Association. – *Public Works & Community Development*

**THE BHS RED CROSS CLUB SAFETY DAY ON THE GREEN:** The Benicia High School Red



Cross Club held its annual Safety Day on the Green on October 29. They invited BERT, Benicia FD and Benicia PD to attend and staff information tables. Both BERT and BFD attended with their perspective information booths setup for all to see. In addition to providing information, the Fire Department conducted CPR demonstrations and trained nine

citizens how to use Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's). - *Fire Department*

**CONCERT BAND PERFORMANCE:** The Diablo Regional Concert Band will be coming to perform a [Winter Concert](#) at the Library on December 9 at 7 PM. This 50 member Bay Area concert band will hold a Winter holiday concert in the fireplace area of the Library with Cora Martens conducting. – *Library*

**BERT MUSTER:** Participants and supporters of Benicia’s volunteer community disaster corps hosted their annual meeting on Thursday, Nov. 10, at the Clocktower in the historic Benicia Arsenal. Benicia residents interested in the free training classes offered each spring by the [Benicia Emergency Response Team](#) (BERT) also attended.



The annual [BERT Muster](#) began at 7 PM. Doors opened at 6 PM to allow time to visit with representatives from area volunteer disaster programs, including Volunteers in Police Services, Benicia Volunteer Fire Department, Benicia Medical Reserve Corps, Benicia Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services, Solano County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue, and the Solano County chapter of the American Red Cross.

The guest speaker was Jay Huysoon, Fire Chief of the Cordelia Fire Protection District. Longtime BERT organizer Marion McKown was presented with a City of Benicia proclamation acknowledging her contributions as she handed over the leadership of the volunteer program to other BERT volunteers. Over the past decade, more than 500 Benicia residents have been trained as BERT members to assist police, fire, and other emergency services personnel in the event of a major community disaster. - *Fire Department*

**KINDLES CAN NOW ACCESS E-BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY!:** The e-book and e-audio link on the library’s homepage will take you to “[Library to Go](#)” where you can access the library’s [collection of eBooks](#) and e-audio books. For Kindle books, the icon will link you to “Get for Kindle” – a link to Amazon prompting the user to login to their Amazon account. (Note: Amazon must be accessed through a computer.) Once this link has been established, getting a book on your Kindle is easy. More information on how to use Kindle e-books through the library is available on a “How To” video: [Using Library E-books on Kindle](#). For more specific directions or problems, the library has [step-by-step instructions](#) available (go to the very bottom of the e-books and e-audio books page). – *Library*



## **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**