



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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NOVEMBER 19, 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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**GOBBLE, GOBBLE...A REMINDER THAT CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED:** City Administrative Offices and the Library will be closed on **Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23** with the Library closing early on Wednesday at 5:00 pm so that staff may give thanks with their families. Requests for emergency water and sewer service may be made through the Benicia Police Department, 200 East L Street or 745.3412. – *City Manager's Office*



**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY:** Between Black Friday and Cyber Monday is a day dedicated to supporting small businesses nationwide: **Saturday, November 24**. Last year, over one hundred million people came together to Shop Small® at independently-owned establishments in their communities on Small Business Saturday®. This year will be even bigger.

What is Small Business Saturday®? Small Business Saturday is a day for everyone — from the business owners who create jobs to the customers who buy locally — to

support small businesses that invigorate the economy and keep communities thriving.

It began in 2010 when American Express founded Small Business Saturday to help small businesses get more exposure during one of the biggest shopping weekends of the year. American Express is offering [free and easy-to-use tools](#) to help small businesses get the most out of the day and tools for consumers to show their support. Be a key part of helping our community thrive by shopping or dining (or both) locally on Saturday, November 24. – *Economic Development*



**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE REMINDER:** The holiday season began in Benicia with last weekend's *Earlier than the Bird* encouraging shoppers to jump out of bed and come downtown in their jammies for early shopping. This is just one of several events designed to help you, your friends and family enjoy a Great Day by the Bay celebrating in Benicia.



The DO NOT MISS event of the season will be the [Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting](#) on the evening of **Friday,**

**November 30.** Stroll First Street enjoying the company of your friends and family, enjoying late night shopping, music from Kris Kringle & The Mistletones, and more. As a special treat, Santa will make an appearance to light the holiday tree at the foot of First Street and for the first time, every tree on the street will be lit, nearly a mile of lights thanks to our First Street merchants! Did you see the sneak-peak of the lighted trees last week?

Information on this and all the holiday events is available at [VisitBenicia.org](#). – *Economic Development*

**AED INSTALLED AT COMMUNITY CENTER:** Automated External Defibrillators (AED) have been installed at the Benicia Community Center and all Community Center staff have been trained in CPR and the use of the AEDs. The American Heart Association states that sudden cardiac arrest and other life-threatening emergencies can happen anywhere, even in your workplace. Giving CPR and using an AED can greatly increase the victim's chance of survival. – *Parks & Community Services*



**TEXT A QUESTION TO LIBRARIANS:** The Benicia Public Library now offers text message reference services. To register, text **benicialib** to **66746** and then save **66746** as a contact in your phone called **benicialib**. (Message and Data rates may apply.) Try it now! – *Library*

**POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:** The latest edition of the Benicia Police Department [Monthly Report](#) has been published and is on the City's website ([www.ci.benicia.ca.us](http://www.ci.benicia.ca.us)) under City Departments, Police, Annual & Monthly Reports. The report provides information on Crime Statistics, Community Service, Professional Development, and an interesting Monthly Case Summary. Check it out. – *Police Department*





**FIRE SERVICES SURVEY:** The Insurance Services Office (ISO) recently completed a survey and analysis of the structural fire suppression delivery system provided in the City of Benicia. The good news is that as a result of the survey, Benicia's ISO classification will remain at a level 3. ISO's rating system is ranked 1 thru 10, with 1 being the highest. This insurance classification number is one of several elements used in developing property insurance premium calculations for many individual properties in our community. The survey evaluates fire suppression capabilities, as well as the water distribution and the emergency communication systems in Benicia. – *Fire Department*

**ADDITIONAL HOLIDAY CLOSURES:** City Administrative Offices will be closed Monday December 24 through Friday, December 28 and again on Tuesday, January 1. The Library will be closed on December 25 and January 1 and close early at 5:00 pm on December 24, 26, 27, 28, and 31. - *Library*

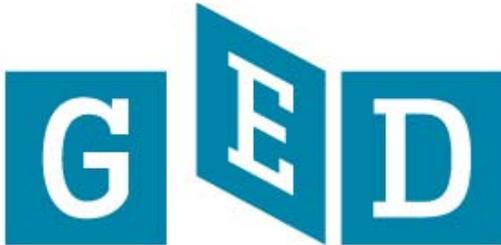
**RIDGE TRAIL SERVICE DAY:** On November 3, the Parks Division helped with the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual REI - Ridge Trail Service Day. City staff worked alongside approximately 30 volunteers on sections of the Rollye Wiskerson Trail between Channing Circle Park and

Benicia Community Park. This work was part of a much bigger project with over 300 volunteers working on sections of the [Bay Area Ridge Trail](#) throughout the greater Bay Area. – *Parks & Community Services*



**GED OFFICIAL PRACTICE TESTS SOFTWARE AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY:** After January 1, 2014, [General Educational Development](#) (GED) tests will become substantially more difficult. In an effort to help people prepare for and pass the GED tests before the end of 2013, the California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) Division of the California State Library has provided free software for California Library Literacy Programs.

The Benicia Library Adult Literacy and English as a Second Language Program received this software and now has Official Practice Tests available to students practicing to take the GED.



“Practice 4 GED” assesses readiness for all sections of the GED test. Multiple-choice sections deliver immediate results that, when combined with the hand-scored essay, predict the student’s equivalent GED test score. A personalized study plan is provided

based on the individual test results, telling the student the exact areas where they need further practice.

GED students will have access to the practice tests on one computer in the Literacy Program computer lab. This should be a real enhancement to the service currently provided in helping GED students prepare for the tests. - *Library*

**FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVES LUNCH TO SENIORS:** On November 14, Benicia Firefighters, along with other City staff, served lunch to seniors at the Benicia Senior Center at the City’s bi-monthly sponsored lunch event. Engineer Jason Fein of the Benicia Fire Department was also pleased to receive toy donations from the seniors to benefit the Fire Department’s [Toys for Tots](#) program. The Benicia Fire Department is accepting toy donations from now until just a few days before Christmas. Whenever you are picking up a holiday gift or gift card, won’t you pick up one more for the kids? These donations will help ensure a happy holiday season for many children in need. – *Fire Department*





**FALL BALL FIELD PREP:** Parks Department staff have begun their fall ball field prep work. Turf areas where lips have built up around the perimeter of the infields will be cut back and lowered to eliminate trip hazards. Worn turf areas will be cut out and new sod added so it can root over the winter months. In the spring, staff will re-cut the infield lines, prep the infields, and re-build pitcher's mounds as needed. – *Parks & Community Services*

**YOUTH COMMISSION HONORS VETERANS:** Twelve Benicia Youth Commission members placed over 150 American flags at the City Cemetery on Friday, November 9 in honor of Veteran's Day. Commissioners lined the center aisle and entrance as well as placed flags on individual graves of veterans. The group's intent was that the flags created a warm welcome to families visiting the cemetery over the holiday weekend. – *Parks & Community Services*



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM THE PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT:**  
Staff (special thanks to Megan Beemon) decorated the halls of the Benicia Community Center with beautiful reminders that it is the season to give thanks. A Thanksgiving Banner & Giving Thanks Tree with leaves listing all of the Parks & Community Services staff, teachers, programs & customers. The Parks & Community Service Department and all the City staff wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving!! – *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