



## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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DECEMBER 5, 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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**RETAILER'S PROFITABILITY SEMINAR, DECEMBER 8:** Solano County Small Business Development Corporation and the City of Benicia are sponsoring a seminar for local small businesses entitled [Profitability Tactics for Retailers](#) on Thursday, December 8 from 8:00am – Noon at the Benicia Community Center. Dr. Bruce Sanders, retail consultant/consumer psychologist and author of *Retailers Edge: Boost Profits Using Shopper Psychology* will conduct the 4-hour seminar designed to strengthen the skills of owners/operators of small retailing businesses in five areas instrumental to success:

**Setting everyday prices ~ Conducting sales promotions ~  
Increasing the size of each purchase ~ Changing shoppers' preference ~  
Ensuring shoppers return soon**

Each participant will receive a copy of the *Retailers Edge: Boost Profits Using Shopper Psychology*. Follow-up one-on-one counseling by SBDC Business Advisors will also be available at no cost to help retailers implement the strategies learned in the seminar.

Cost of the seminar is \$50 (free for qualifying microenterprises). Register online at [www.SolanoSBDC.org](http://www.SolanoSBDC.org) or call 707.864.3382. – *City Manager's Office*

**YOUTH COMMISSION:** On November 10, the Benicia Youth Commission placed over 150 American flags along the entrance of the City Cemetery and on graves in honor of Veteran's Day. This Veteran's Day approximately 20 Commissioners & friends united to reflect on the lives of those buried at the City Cemetery. Youth Commissioners place flags annually for Memorial & Veteran's Day. – *Parks & Community Services*



**TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY AND MERCHANT OPEN HOUSE:**



The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, sponsored by Benicia Parks and Community Services was held on Friday, December 2 at the end of First Street in front of the Depot. The event included live entertainment by Kris Kringle and the Mistletones, and hot chocolate and cookies served by the Youth Commission. Benicia Main Street hosted a merchant open house and First Street businesses offered beverages and treats and showed off their holiday goods. The evening continues to be a huge success and a great way for families to kick off the holiday season. – *Parks & Community Services*

**RECEPTION FOR CITY OFFICIALS TUESDAY:** The Commission Room at City Hall is the location of a reception Tuesday evening, December 6, to greet incoming, outgoing, and re-elected City officials. Citizens, staff, and family members are invited to the 6:00pm reception, which will be followed by a meeting of the City Council at 7:00pm. At that meeting, business with the current sitting City Council will wrap-up. Council Member Mike Ioakimedes and City Treasurer Teri Davena will be recognized for their service. Neither sought re-election. Immediately following will be a second City Council meeting at which re-elected officials, Mayor Patterson, Council Member Tom Campbell, and City Clerk Lisa Wolfe will be sworn in along with newly elected officials, Council Member Christina Strawbridge and City Treasurer Robert Langston. – *City Manager's Office*

**COMMUNITY CENTER PARKING LOT:**

Installation of solar panels at the Benicia Community Center is nearing completion. The solar panels have been installed, and the last phase of the project will be the electrical connections. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by early December. Anyone using the Community Center during construction is encouraged to park on the south side of East L Street. - *Parks & Community Services*



**BUSINESS UPDATE:** Pro-Form Laboratories, a leading contract manufacturing business of thousands of powdered nutritional products for hundreds of companies worldwide is rapidly expanding, and recently leased a new ±52,178 square foot office/warehouse/distribution



facility in the Benicia Industrial Park. The facility will provide a layout with brand new administrative offices and efficient loading options for customers and suppliers. – *City Manager's Office*

**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 or on the Library's website. – *Library*

**NEW SERVICE FOR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE:** Information regarding new services through Allied Waste for household hazardous waste will run in December and January Benicia magazines, as well as in the *Sustainable Benician* (the Allied newsletter enclosed with your bill).



**New Services for Household Hazardous Waste**  
Coming to Benicia Residents January 1, 2012

Beginning January 1st, Allied Waste Services will pick up household hazardous waste from your curb\*  
**\*By appointment only. Special packaging required. Call 707.747.0608 for details.**

- Pesticides
- Swimming Pool Chemicals
- Gasoline
- Drain Openers
- Hobby Chemicals
- Paint Products
- Car Batteries
- Automotive Chemicals
- House Cleaning Products

After 1/1/12 Benicia residents dropping off household hazardous waste at Devlin Road Transfer Station will be charged a fee per load.  
Please continue to place batteries and CFLs in Ziploc bags next to your brown cart. For more info call Marie Knutson, Allied Waste, 925.671.5814 or visit [www.awsgcc.com](http://www.awsgcc.com).



Beginning January 1, Allied Waste Services will pick up household hazardous waste from your curb (by appointment only). This includes pesticides, swimming pool chemicals, gasoline, drain openers, hobby chemicals, paint products, car batteries, automotive chemicals, and house cleaning products. Special packaging is required. (Please continue to place batteries and CFLs in Ziploc bags next to your brown cart.)

After 1/1/12, Benicia residents dropping off household hazardous waste at Devlin Road Transfer Station will be charged a fee per load. For more info call Marie Knutson, Allied Waste, 925.671.5814 or visit [www.awsgcc.com](http://www.awsgcc.com). - *City Manager's Office*

**SANTA IS COMING TO BENICIA:** The Benicia Firefighters Association together with the Benicia Fire Department invites you to come have your picture taken with Santa in his sleigh! Bring your family, bring your kids and enjoy the holiday evening with some cheer and light refreshments! Santa will arrive at Fire Station #11 (150 Military West) on Friday December 16 from 4:00pm – 8:00pm. Donations are greatly appreciated for your photo. The Benicia FireFighters and Toys for Tots will also be accepting donations of new and unwrapped toys. - *Fire Department*



**SOLAR PROJECT:** Construction of solar arrays continues at multiple City-owned sites,



including the Community Park (shown in photo). The carport arrays at the Community Center are completed except for wiring connections and the parking lot is open again. The City Hall arrays are expected to be completed over the next few months, with the parking lot reopening by late December. – *Public Works & Community Development*

**BENICIA'S POET LAUREATE:** [Ronna Leon](#), Benicia's third Poet Laureate, continues to forge ahead with many new programs for the community. In addition to the First Tuesday Poetry Group that meets the first Tuesday of every month in the Library, the following represent some of the [programs](#) our current Poet Laureate has provided:

- **Poetry Out Loud** contest – Benicia schools were the only entry for Solano County in 2011 with the coordination of local high school and middle school teachers. Planning for the 2012 event is currently in progress.
- First annual **Poet's Picnic** (80 attendees with poets from around the Bay area) was held in August. Already plans are underway for next year's picnic event to introduce Benicia's next Poet Laureate.
- Art Gallery exhibit called **I Read the News Today, Oh Boy!** ran from June 22 – July 29. Many other associated events were included from the opening reception to a symposium and of course, poetry readings. The exhibit traveled to the [Pacific Grove Library](#) and will be on display from November 11 – January 13, 2012.
- **Monthly Poetry Clinics** began sporadically in early 2011 and in September 2011 it officially became a monthly (every third Friday) event. Poets can receive one-on-one assistance with their poetry with Ronna, a past Benicia Poets Laureate, or poets from the First Tuesday Poetry Group.
- Ben Franklin **Proverbs to Poems** contest was held in conjunction with the *Ben Franklin: In Search of a Better World* traveling exhibit. Two winners were announced at the November 2011 First Tuesday Poetry meeting.
- Ronna is already working on the 2012 **Love Poetry** contest (co-sponsored with the Benicia Historical Museum) for the second year as well as 2012 First Tuesday Poetry Anthology: Signs of the Times. Twenty-nine poets have committed to contribute their work. - *Library*



Photo By: Rebecca Martinez

**POLICE PATROL VOLUNTEERS:** On October 25, the Benicia Police Department sent seven Patrol Volunteers to the 12th Annual LEVOC (Law Enforcement Volunteers of California) conference in Lodi. This annual conference provides valuable training to over 500 law enforcement volunteers throughout the state. This year over 44 agencies sent volunteers. Benicia Police Department Community Services Officer Patti Baron also attended. Patti has served on the LEVOC



Board of Directors for the past eight years, is a Past President, and helps coordinate the conference.

In addition, BPD volunteers distributed holiday crime prevention pamphlets to all First Street businesses and other merchants in the city. – *Police Department*

**DATABASE CHANGES:** In an effort to reduce costs of database subscriptions, SNAP directors decided to change from the EBSCO palette of databases to those provided by Gale. [Gale's selection of databases](#) provides access to newspapers, academic and general magazines, auto repair, biographies, social issues, student resources, and literature. The new database selection became available on September 1, at which time we obtained full text access to the New York Times, articles that can be translated into 11 languages, and options to email articles to friends or listen to audio files of some selections.

The library has also renewed its subscription to Reference USA, as this provides a critical database for small businesses and entrepreneurs, and can provide valuable information for the economic development work being done in the City. - *Library*

**HOLIDAY LIGHTS ON THE CAPITOL:** The Benicia Fire Department assisted with hanging holiday lights on the Capitol Building on Friday, November 18. This has become an annual tradition. – *Fire Department*



**THANKSGIVING MEALS:** The Benicia Rotary Club purchased pre-packaged Thanksgiving meals from Raley's Supermarket for local families in need. The Benicia Fire Department delivered the meals on Tuesday, November 22. – *Fire Department*

**DIABLO REGIONAL CONCERT BAND:** The Diablo Regional Concert Band will be coming to perform a [Winter Concert](#) at the Library on December 9. 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*

**VISITBENICIA.ORG:** Looking for where to shop? A salon or spa? How about a place to stay? Trying to find out when an event is, or where? Hungry and looking for a restaurant? Want to try something new? Answers to those questions and more are available online at [VisitBenicia.org](http://VisitBenicia.org). The site has handy listings for visitors and residents alike. Find information on the arts, history, shopping, dining, spas, the waterfront, lodging, and events. Don't forget to sign-up for the [newsletter](#) while you're there. You can access information on the [VisitBenicia Facebook](#) page, too. There are many ways to visit us online and plan your "[Great Day by the Bay](#)". – *City Manager's Office*



**LIBRARY'S NEW MICROFILM READER:** Benicia Herald newspapers covering a time period from December 1899 through the present are available on microfilm in the library. For these items and other microfilm materials, the library has replaced the antiquated microfilm reader (with old technology and frequent service requests) with a new Scan Pro 2000 microfilm reader. Excellent reviews from other libraries, vendors, and hands-on comparisons by staff, as well as good value and reliability helped with the selection, and Library users have been pleased with the easy reading, printing, and saving onto a flash drive that is now available. - *Library*



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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](#): 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**