



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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**DECEMBER 19, 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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**DOWNTOWN BUSINESS NEWS:** New of First Street is [Delgado Property Management](#) at 917 First Street. If you have property you'd like to rent but don't want the hassle, or you're looking for a home or condo to rent, contact Delgado Property Management at 877.258.6386.

Also new to Downtown Benicia is [Fiber-Frolics](#) at 637 First Street. Learn to knit or brush up on your knitting skills so that you can give fine handcrafted gifts next holiday season. Contact Fiber-Frolics at 707.747.YARN (9276).

Spotted on First Street: Check out the leg lamp in the side window of [Floors on First](#) at 840 First Street. Do you remember the FRAGILE prize (a major award) The Old Man won in the nostalgic movie *A Christmas Story*?

Speaking of nostalgia, Spoonful of Sugar, a candy store at 374 First Street, features new candy and candy you haven't seen since you were a kid. It's a great place to get your unique stocking stuffers or place an order for your New Year's Eve Wishing Lanterns. Stop by Monday-Saturday, 12:00-8:00 pm and Sunday, 12:00-7:00 pm or call 707.746.5188. See's Candies is available at [Benicia Main Street](#) and they've extended their hours until the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 7:30 pm, Monday-Friday. They're open on weekends from 11:00 am-4:00 pm. – *City Manager's Office*

**SOUTHAMPTON PARK:** The construction of the Southampton Park retaining wall is complete, and the basketball court is open for play. The scope of the project consisted of removing and replacing the damaged wall and cyclone fence. – *Parks & Community Services*



**COFFEE WITH THE COPS:** Benicia Police Department will host its second "[Coffee with the Cops](#)" neighborhood/business meeting Thursday, January 5 from 8:00-9:00 am at the Benicia Grill, 4760 East 2nd Street.

"Coffee with the Cops" is a pilot program implemented by the Police Department in an effort to enhance communication between community members, business owners and the Police Department. The first meeting was held November 17 at First Street Cafe and was attended by about 40 citizens.



At the January 5 meeting, Police Officers, professional staff and the Police Chief will discuss crime trends and other issues throughout the city. They will be available to answer questions, offer tips and provide information on topics of interest as well as speak with residents about enhancing Neighborhood Watch Programs and other strategies to reduce crime. – Police – *Police Department*

**STATE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SAYS “TRIGGER” WILL BE PULLED:** As part of the



**[Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building](#), Sacramento**

Governor’s nearly \$1 billion mid-year budget cuts, a \$16 million reduction to state library funding is included. This essentially eliminates all remaining state funding for the [California Library Services Act](#) (CLSA), the state literacy program, and the Public Library Foundation.

At the local level, these cuts were anticipated, so the library budget will remain unchanged. The greatest immediate impacts will be at the regional level, as the elimination of CLSA funds will impact the collaborative collection development and materials handling that currently exists between libraries throughout the state. Also, since

state funds for libraries are matched by federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the Braille and Talking book library and pilot programs for libraries are in jeopardy. - *Library*

**BALL FIELD PREPARATION:** Play Ball! Staff is preparing the baseball and softball fields for the 2012 season. This consists of cutting back the sod on the infield and outfield at Fitzgerald Field, Community Park, Maria and Riberio Fields, Jack London Park, and Benicia High School and Middle School. Fields will be ready for play when the youth groups and high school begin play in February 2012. – *Parks & Community Services*



**WHAT DO I DO WITH MY CHRISTMAS TREE?** There are two options for Benicia residents wanting to recycle their live Christmas tree after the holidays:

You may recycle your tree with your garbage service provider, [Allied Waste](#) under the following conditions:

- You can place unflocked trees in your green yard waste cart as long as the tree fits in the cart with the lid closed.
- Branches must be 6-inches in diameter or less and 3-feet in length or less. Please cut off treetops, if necessary.
- Please remove lights, ornaments, tinsel, nails and stands from the tree. No plastic bags.
- Flocked, painted, fireproofed or artificial trees are not accepted.
- Flocked trees can be collected curbside for a fee of \$40 per tree. Pick-up of flocked trees must be scheduled in advance. To schedule a pick-up or get more information, call 707.747.0608.



Another option is the [Boy Scout Tree Recycling](#) program:

- Drop-off sites are Benicia Community Park (near Matthew Turner School) and First Baptist Church, 1055 Southampton Road, December 31 and January 1, 7 and 8 from 9:00 am-4:30 pm.
- Scouts will also pick-up trees by appointment on the same dates. Call 707. 551.4520 or visit [www.BeniciaScouts.org](http://www.BeniciaScouts.org) to schedule an appointment.
- The Scouts will accept flocked trees.
- Donations of \$7 would be appreciated. – *City Manager's Office*

**SOROPTIMIST GROVE:** Staff is completing work on the Soroptimist Grove at Community



Park and has ordered the plant material. Installation should begin in late December or early January. This project was funded by a \$10,000 donation from Soroptimist International of Benicia. The project consisted of rough grading, new irrigation and installation of plant material in a portion of the garden. – *Parks & Community Services*

**HIGH SPEED INTERNET CONNECTION FOR THE PUBLIC:** The Library offers free public Internet and wi-fi access, having recently upgraded the system's speed through a fiber connection increasing the capacity from .5 MBPS to 10 MBPS. This increase has made access to the Internet faster and easier for Library users. Library staff invite the public to come in and see the difference improvements in technology can make! - *Library*

**COMMUNITY CENTER PARKING LOT:** The final phase of connecting the electrical for the solar panels at the Benicia Community Center is nearing completion. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by the end of December. The lot is currently open during construction and we everyone using the center are encouraged to park in the lot. Thank you for your cooperation during this project. – *Parks & Community Services*



**LIBRARY NEWSLETTER:** [December's newsletter](#) includes information on programs coming in the next month or two, hours of operation over the holiday season, and Library statistics for November. The Library newsletter is available on the library's website or at the kiosk in the Library. – *Library*

**SGT. YOKOI GRADUATES FROM SLI:** On December 15, Sergeant Roger Yokoi, a 27-year veteran with the Benicia Police Department, graduated from the prestigious [Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute](#) (SLI) course sponsored by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). Twenty-four police sergeants from around the state completed SLI Class 300 in a program that began in 1989.



**Patrol Lt. Mike Greene (left), Sgt. Roger Yokoi (center), and Police Chief Andrew Bidou**

Yokoi said, "This course demanded a lot of time away from work to complete. I want to thank my fellow supervisors for covering my shifts and handling all the things that came up during my absence. The things I

took away from this course will mature over time as I continue to grow as a leader."

Since 1997, the Benicia Police Department has been sending Sergeants to the leadership course, designed to stimulate personal growth, leadership, and ethical decision-making in California law enforcement front-line supervisors. – *Police Department*

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** Look for the next edition of the *City Manager's Report* on January 16<sup>th</sup>. In the mean time, I wish you a healthy and happy holiday season and to all of us, a prosperous new year. –*Brad Kilger*

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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