

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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January 26, 2016

The City Manager's Report from City of Benicia City Manager Brad Kilger is published twice monthly highlighting the activities of the departments of our full-service city. Previous editions are available on the City of Benicia [City Manager's page](#). For additional information on any items in this report, please see [Contact List](#) at the end of this report.

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**NEW BENICIA BUSINESSES:** The following are businesses that have applied for a business license, have a new owner, or moved to a new location. Please stop by and make them feel welcome:

- **Cooper Peak Logistics** – 5344 Industrial Way, owner: CWL Associates Inc. Storage and distribution services for wine and non-wine products.
- **Benicia Transportation Inc.** – 1350 Hayes Street, C-4, owner: Maxime Kowan. Transportation for individuals with disabilities.
- **Sunrise Foot Spa** – 425 Military East, Ste J, owners: Wen Jun Meng & Zhengrong Qin. Foot reflexology.
- **Colt Group LLC** – 6060 Egret Court, owners: John & Carole Clark. Petrochemical service contractor.
- **AE Bates LLC, DBA Jute Crossfit** – 6002 Egret Court, owners: Alan & Elizabeth Bates. Group fitness classes.
- **Anh's Salon** – 101B East H Street, owner: Anh Thu Fetters. Hair salon.
- **April Szabo Photography** – 940 Tyler Street #1, owner: April Szabo. Portrait photography.
- **Chars Hot Dogs** (new owner only) – 131 First Street, Ste A. owner: Kimberly Casarino. Restaurant.
- **Big O Tires** (new owner only) – 415 Military East, owners: Chris Monteverde & Ibrahim Matia. Tire store.



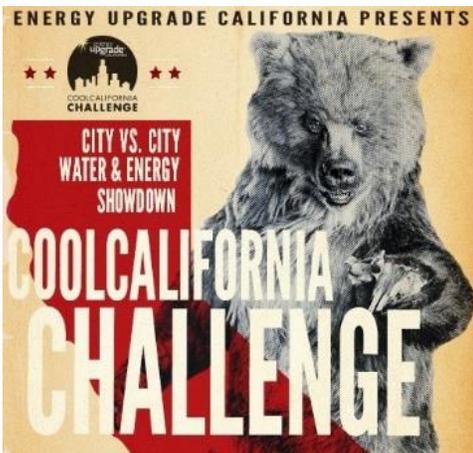
- *Economic Development*

**MAYOR ENCOURAGES YOU TO JOIN THE COOL CALIFORNIA CHALLENGE:** The CoolCalifornia Challenge, a competition between California cities to motivate and reward residents for reducing their carbon footprints and build more sustainable communities, just got a little more competitive. With 22 cities vying for the title of “Coolest California City,” nine mayors and city officials upped the stakes, sharing rousing videos to promote the challenge and encourage participation among residents.

In the videos, mayors discuss what makes their cities “the Coolest” and offer a range of ideas to improve sustainability in their cities, from mainstream concepts like biking to work to more creative ideas like “No Flush Fridays.” Check out Mayor Elizabeth Patterson’s [unique recommendation](#) in Benicia’s video.



“The CoolCalifornia Challenge is a fun way for cities and residents to band together and see their sustainability efforts rewarded in a tangible way,” said Pamela Wellner, Manager, Climate Change Programs for Energy Upgrade California. “These mayors have taken the competition to the next level by infusing some humor and creativity into their calls to action. As we kick off a New Year, we hope these videos inspire residents to resolve to cut carbon emissions.”



The videos feature mayors or officials from [Benicia](#), Burlingame, Claremont, Fairfax, Huntington Beach, Martinez, Redwood City, San Mateo, and South Pasadena. Three additional cities — Richmond, Larkspur and Corte Madera — are producing videos with their mayors.

Households in participating cities can join the CoolCalifornia Challenge by registering at [CAChallenge.org](#). They can then track energy use and vehicle miles driven, as well as share energy saving tips to earn points for their cities. The city with the highest sustainability points at the end of the challenge will be crowned Coolest California City. Two runner-up cities will be named Cool California City. All participating cities will receive a portion of a

\$150,000 prize based on the percentage of their points that will be used to support local sustainability projects.

The CoolCalifornia City Challenge ends **March 30**, and the winning city will be recognized during Earth Week on April 21.

CoolCalifornia Challenge is a partnership between Energy Upgrade California®, the [CoolCalifornia.org](#) program at the California Air Resources Board, and the [Cool Climate Network](#) at the University of California, Berkeley’s Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory. – *Community Development*

**DAY TRIPS WITH AMERICAN STAGE TOURS:** The Parks & Community Services Department is sponsoring some of Northern California's best day trips. It's the perfect way to travel, no driving or tickets needed. They provide everything for you so you can just sit back and relax. Advanced registration is required. Register for day trips at the Benicia Community Center or Benicia Senior Center. The tour bus will pick up and drop off at the Benicia Senior Center. – *Parks & Community Services*

Cache Creek Casino

**Tuesday, March 8**

\$33.00 per person (Lunch included)

Times: 9:00 AM – 4:45 PM



Tour of Scibiaca & Sons Olive Oil Company, Hilmar Cheese & Wentle Vineyards

**Tuesday, April 12**

\$85.00 per person (Lunch included)

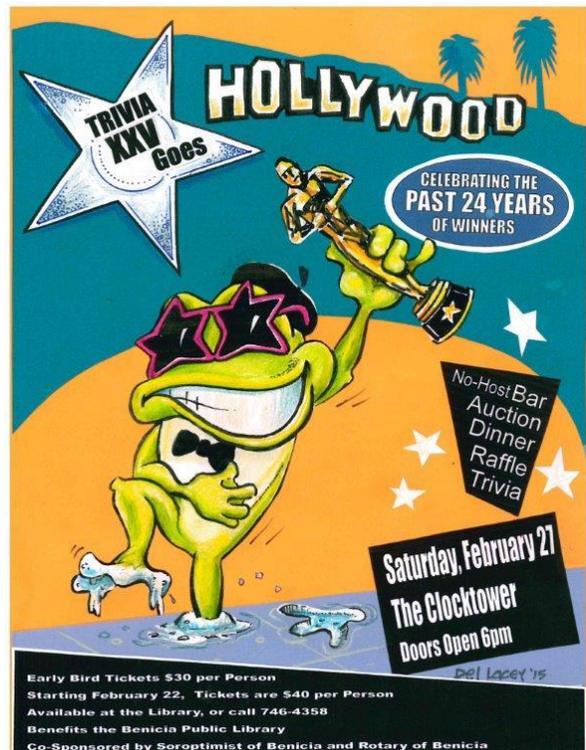
Times: 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM



**TRIVIA BEE GOES HOLLYWOOD:** Tickets are on sale for the annual Library fundraiser on **Saturday, February 27.**

This fun-filled Trivia contest consists of up to 21 teams of 3 players each. The entry fee is \$300 which includes dinner for all three players and a chance to win the coveted Trivia Bee plaque, which will be in the possession of the winner for one year. Trivia questions will pertain to geography, history, local history, entertainment, sports and a wild card. There is also a raffle and a silent auction for further entertainment.

Tickets are \$30 per ticket for early birds and \$40 starting February 22. Tables of 8 or more may be reserved. Tickets are available at Benicia Public Library or call 707.746-4358 for more information. - *Library*



## **FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING:**

As part of their ongoing training program, Benicia Firefighters recently conducted training on extinguishing flammable and combustible liquid fires at the Valero Benicia Refinery.

In addition, simulated fire operations training is going on through the end of January at 436 East I Street. Special thanks to St.

Dominic's for the unique opportunity, and to Valero Benicia Refinery as this training is extremely valuable to our crews and the community. – *Fire Department*



**CELEBRATION AT CITY HALL:** Benicia Police Department will be celebrating the promotions of Lieutenant Damiean Sylvester and Sergeant Teddy Criado on **Thursday, February 4** at 4:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. They will also swear-in their latest hires, Officers Christopher Siglin, Brendan Polick, Michelle King and Christopher Francis. A reception at City Hall immediately follows. – *Police Department*



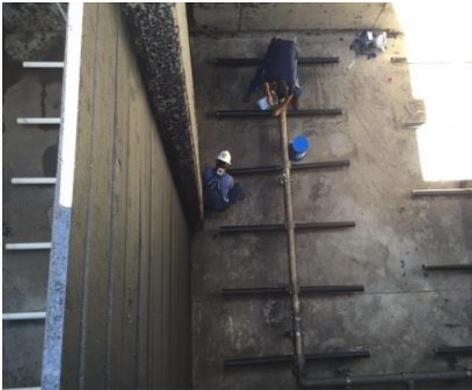
**UPDATE FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:** Here is a look at what the Public Works Department was up to recently. Maybe they were in your neighborhood?

**Maintenance – Streets:**

- **Street repair and special event work for December:** Replaced missing sidewalk bricks in 500 and 800 blocks of First Street. Paved water patch at 363 Industrial Way. Provided set up of special events: Holiday Open House & Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Holiday Market & parade. Cleaned sidewalk along West Military between West 13th and West 14th Streets.
- **Streets Crew – Drainage work for December:** Cleaned 175 drain inlets and responded to a tree down at 321 West J Street. Provided support to Cal-Fire to clear open drainage ditches on Industrial Way, West Channel Road, 500 block of East N Street, and East E Street parking lot. Also assisted Cal-Fire clearing two V-Ditch's at the 500 block of Hastings and East 2nd Street. Cleaned the Marina pump station grate.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant- Projects:**

Projects for November-



The aeration basin project was completed towards the middle of October and since then they have been able to stay on only one blower. Staff has replaced all of the air diffuser socks in the air dispersion system and replacing all of

the gaskets throughout the air piping system. This has made the system more efficient and will show up in cost savings on power usage to the blowers. In October's report it was stated, "It will take a couple of months to see how the process performs." So far, the system has been able to run on the single blower, next step will be to evaluate the electrical bills to better understand the energy savings they are using in this system and how much cost savings they have within the system.

Another project started is revamping the Plant's boilers gas line system. They have encountered some problems with this system off and on over the last couple of years. So they are going to replace all of the gas flow system to bring the system back to working properly and efficiently. This work should be completed over the next couple of months.



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Projects for December-

Work on the boilers gas line system continued. They have replaced some of the older valves on both boilers and have them running much better now. They are still going to replace more of the gas flow system eventually to make sure the system is back to working as



efficiently as possible. Staff has also worked on doing the annual effluent pump “DI” testing and in that process found one of the large check valves had gone bad so staff has replaced it.

### **Wastewater Treatment Plant - Maintenance:**

In November, staff performed 70 preventive maintenance tasks as well as 3 corrective maintenance work orders. Staff performed 71 preventive maintenance task as well as 14 corrective maintenance work orders in December.

### **WWTP Plant Performance:**

November-

The Plant processed 66.88 million gallons of raw wastewater with no Permit exceedances.

Nutrient pollution removal; Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) = 99%

Total Suspended Solids (TSS) = 100%

The Effluent Acute Bioassy testing had a 98% survival rate.

December-

The Plant processed 75.63 million gallons of raw wastewater with no Permit exceedances.

Nutrient pollution removal; Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) = 99 %

Total Suspended Solids (TSS) = 99 %

The Effluent Acute Bioassy testing had a 92.5 % survival rate.

- *Public Works*

**N**EWSPLETTER FROM MCE: Marin Clean Energy has released their newsletter for winter 2016. Called [The Re-Source](#), it is a quarterly newsletter about renewable energy & conservation. MCE is the alternative energy provider to PG&E in Benicia.

[Click here](#) to read the newsletter and subscribe.

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*Community Development*



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

- [Assistant Water Operator/Water Operator](#), full-time, closing 02/05/16
- [Public Safety Dispatcher \(Lateral and/or Academy Grad\)](#), full-time, closing 02/09/16
- [Wastewater Operator I/II/III](#), full-time, closing 02/19/16
- [Police Officer - Lateral \(currently working\)](#), full-time, open continuously

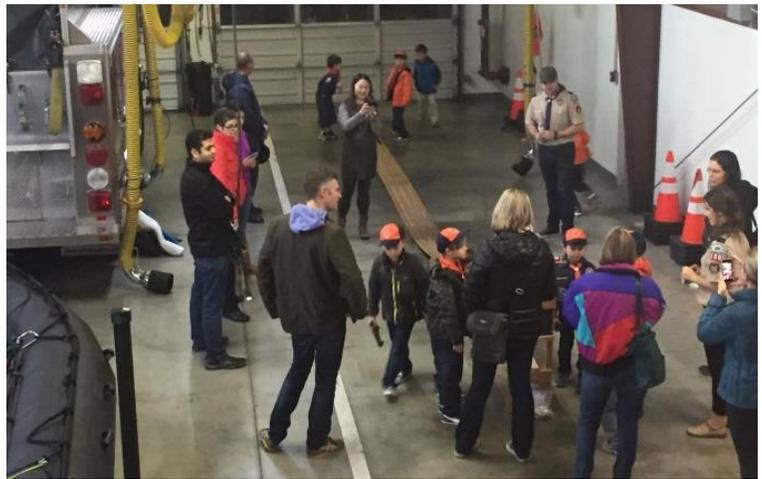
To apply, the application and supplemental forms can be filed online at: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/benicia/default.cfm>. City of Benicia employment



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*

**FIRE DEPARTMENT FUN:** On the night of January 20, Benicia Cub Scouts were in search of an indoor, warm and dry location for their derby. Benicia Fire Department was happy to accommodate them at Fire Station 11. Great job with the derby boys! Glad we could help. – *Fire Department*



**STATE PARKS UPDATE:** Did you know that Benicia has two State Parks? The Benicia Capitol State Historic Park on First Street in the downtown and the Benicia State Recreation Area off of West K Street or Columbus Parkway on the west side of town.

**Solano State Parks Committee Status Update**

State Parks Update – January 5, 2016

Council Member Strawbridge, a member of the Solano State Parks Committee, provided an update on the status of the parks at the January 5 City Council meeting. You may recall that both parks were slated for closure during state budget cuts in 2011. Multiple agencies and organizations joined together to save them. [Click here](#) to see how they are doing today. – *Parks & Community Services*

**PICKLE BALL ANYONE?** Have you heard of Pickleball? If your answer is no, come and check it out. Pickleball is a racquet sport played on a badminton size court with a net, paddles and a small whiffle ball. It was designed to be easy to learn and play.

Two locations to play:

**Benicia Community Center**

|          |                    |
|----------|--------------------|
| Mondays  | 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM |
| Tuesdays | 11:15 AM – 1:15 PM |
| Fridays  | 11:15 AM – 1:15 PM |

**Benicia City Gym**

|            |                    |
|------------|--------------------|
| Tuesdays   | 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM |
| Wednesdays | 12:30 – 3:00 PM    |



The cost is \$1.00 per visit and all skill levels are welcome. Paddles and balls are provided. Please dress in sport attire and wear tennis shoes.

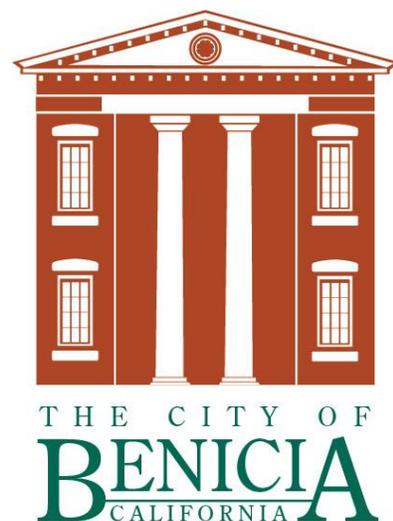
You will definitely hear lots of laughter and cheers because there is a great group of committed players who will be happy to teach you the basics. – *Parks & Community Services*

**WIND ENERGY GENERATION OPPORTUNITIES:** The City of Benicia desires to implement its Climate Action Plan (CAP) and increase the amount of renewable energy generated within city boundaries. If interested, please review and respond to this Request for Proposals (RFP), [Wind Energy Generation Opportunities](#), for location evaluation and the installation and operation of wind energy generation systems under a third party ownership, power purchase agreement (PPA) business model or for on-site energy use.

Proposers should adhere to the following schedule:

- Pre-Proposal Meeting: **February 2, 2016**
- Proposal Questions Due Date: February 5, 2016
- Answers Posted: February 10, 2016
- Proposal Due Date: February 18, 2016
- Selection Interviews: Week of March 7, 2016
- Award of Agreement: Anticipated April 2016

The RFP can be downloaded [here](#). All Proposal questions should be submitted via email by the above due date to Teresa Olson at [tolson@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:tolson@ci.benicia.ca.us). – *Community Development*



## IRONWORKERS PRE-APPRENTICESHIP COURSE ANNOUNCED:

Benicia's University of Iron announces its latest pre-apprenticeship course open to men and women. Participants will receive three weeks of free hands-on training and the opportunity to meet with local signatory contractors.



The training will focus on developing skills to enter into the Reinforcing Ironwork industry. Those who complete the 3 week course will have an excellent opportunity to begin a career as an Ironworker apprentice.

Requirements for entry into the course are:

- Minimum 18 years of age
- High School diploma or GED
- Reliable transportation
- Lifting and carrying a minimum of 70 lbs
- Must pass drug screen

Acceptance into the course will be based on meeting the above listed criteria, a resume and the results of a math test.



The course is scheduled to run April 11-29, 6:30 AM - 3:00 PM, Monday – Friday at the training facility on 3150 Bayshore Road in Benicia. The orientation session is on Monday, March 21 at 4:00 PM. Attendance of the orientation session is required for entry into the course. Attending the orientation does not guarantee entrance into the course. [Click here](#) for more information on this opportunity and to sign up for the 2 hour orientation session. Registration for the orientation session is due by **Friday, March 18**. Late attendees will not be accepted.

For more information about a career in the Ironworkers go to [www.UniversityOfIron.org](http://www.UniversityOfIron.org). – *Economic Development*

**BANKING NEWS:** In November 2015, the City of Benicia awarded a new banking and treasury contract to Wells Fargo after an extensive Request for Services review by a subcommittee made up from members of the City’s Finance Committee and Finance Department staff. The contract term is for five years with an option to extend an additional five years. In addition, the Finance Committee subcommittee recommended the City contract with Wells Fargo for enhanced services that the City is either receiving from other vendors, such as lockbox, or new services such as payment management services that will integrate into the Tyler Munis software.

During the selection process, the City asked each bank for three key factors:

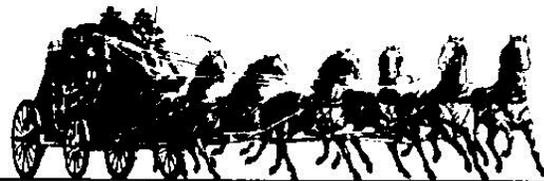
- Provide current level banking and treasury services
- Provide recommendations for new banking and treasury services that best represents modern banking security, technology, and customer service
- Provide recommendations to best integrate into the City’s upcoming ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning)
  - Focus on paperless transactions
  - Focus on customer ease of payables and receivables

Wells Fargo was able to show a wide variety of products and services that would best enhance the technology features of Tyler Munis. The contract will greatly enhance the internal banking and treasury; as well as, provide improved processing of City receivables and payables. The unification of services into one contract is anticipated to streamline processes and improve efficiencies in the department. It was clear that Wells Fargo has diversified its product offerings to meet a wide variety of needs to its customers. Finally, Wells Fargo was the best fit for implementation. They proposed a well-thought-out, multi-phase plan that would help the City transition over to Wells Fargo; as well as, to match up with the various phases of the ERP implementation.

Over two months, the City will start basic treasury services with Wells Fargo, such as depository and check writing from the new Wells Fargo accounts. Starting in March, the City will begin moving away from the CalCard program and implementing Purchase Cards (P-card) programs with Wells Fargo. This comes on the

heels of the Solano Grand Jury encouraging continue use of P-card programs with the goal of maximizing the City’s rebates and improved reporting and payment capabilities under Wells Fargo.

During the upcoming months, Wells Fargo will be offering training to City employees on use of the new system; as well as, partnering with Human Resources to provide free training on personal banking and money management to interested employees. – *Finance Department*



**WELLS FARGO**

**ARTS MEAN BUSINESS:** That is the message being delivered as the City of Benicia announces it has joined the Arts & Economic Prosperity® 5, a national study measuring the economic impact of nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences. The research study is being conducted by Americans for the Arts, the nation’s nonprofit organization advancing the arts and arts education. It is the fifth study over the past 20 years to measure the impact of arts spending on local jobs, income paid to local residents, and revenue generated to local and state governments.

As one of nearly 300 study partners across all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, the City of Benicia will collect detailed financial data about our local nonprofit arts and culture organizations such as our theater and dance companies, museums, festivals, and arts education organizations. “Many people don’t think of nonprofit arts organizations as businesses,” said Mario Giuliani, Economic Development Manager, “but this study will make clear that the arts are a formidable industry in our community—employing people locally, purchasing goods and services from local merchants, and helping to drive tourism and economic development.”



The City of Benicia will also collect surveys from attendees at arts events using a short, anonymous questionnaire that asks how much money they spent on items such as meals, transportation, and retail shopping specifically as a result of attending the event. Previous studies have shown that the average attendee spends \$24.60 per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission. Those studies have also shown that, on average, 32 percent of arts attendees travel from outside the county in which the arts event took place, and that those cultural tourists typically spend nearly \$40 per person—generating important revenue for local businesses and demonstrating how the arts drive revenue for other businesses in the community.

Surveys will be collected throughout calendar year 2016. The results of the study will be released in June of 2017.

“This study will show that when we support the arts in Benicia, we are making an investment in an industry, one that supports jobs and generates government revenue, and is the cornerstone of tourism,” said Diane Smikahl, Benicia Public Library Director.

More information about the economic impact of the arts industry can be found here: [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/EconomicImpact](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/EconomicImpact). A full list of study partners can be found here: [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AEP5Partners](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AEP5Partners).

The year-long effort to collect surveys and financial information is a joint project of the City of Benicia and volunteers commission members from the City of Benicia Arts and Cultural Commission and Economic Development Board, along with organizations providing arts and culture non-profit events in Benicia. For more information, contact Diane Smikahl, Library Director, at [dsmikahl@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:dsmikahl@ci.benicia.ca.us) or 707.746.4343. - *Library*

**O**VERNIGHT TRIPS WITH PREMIER WORLD DISCOVERY: The Parks & Community Services Department is sponsoring several overnight trips. Detailed information on the trips, including pricing and itinerary, are located at the Benicia Community Center at 370 East L Street. Feedback they have received from previous trips is that they are excellent. Premier World Discovery takes care of everything for you including round trip airfare, transfers, hotels, some meals, tour director, baggage handling and much more! For more information, contact Lindsay Dion at [ldion@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:ldion@ci.benicia.ca.us) or 707.746.4771. – *Parks & Community Services*

Southern California and Queen Mary Getaway  
**March 13, 2016—March 18, 2016**

Highlights: 5 nights on the Queen Mary, Los Angeles City Tour, Hollywood & Walk of Fame, Beverly Hills & Rodeo Drive, Santa Monica Pier & Boardwalk, Warner Brothers Studio Tour, Guided Queen Mary Tour, Wayfarers Chapel, Whale & Dolphin Search Cruise, Point Vicente Interpretive Center, Rose Bowl Stadium Tour, Universal City Walk, and the Getty Center.



Charleston & Savannah

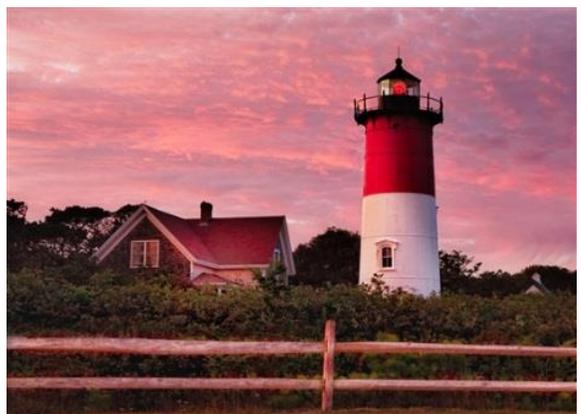
**April 10, 2016—April 17, 2016**

Highlights: 2 Nights in Charleston, South Carolina, 2 Nights in Savannah, Georgia and 2 Nights in St. Augustine, Florida. Charleston City Tour, Boone Hall Plantation, Fort Sumter Boat Tour, Beaufort Tour, Savannah City Hall Tour, Mrs. Wilkes Boarding House Dinner, Jekyll Island Trolley Tour and Lunch at Jekyll Island Club.

Cape Cod and the Islands

**July 10, 2016—July 17, 2016**

Highlights: 6 Nights in a first class hotel in Cape Cod. Nantucket Island Tour, Boston City Tour, Plymouth Plantation, Plymouth Rock, Mayflower II, Hyannis, Martha's Vineyard Tour, Newport's Ocean Drive, Breakers Mansion Tour, Heritage Plantation, New England Lobster Dinner, Faneuil Hall Marketplace.



**ART IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS:** The latest Arts Benicia Presents exhibition in the City Council Chambers is the paintings of Grace Cohen focusing on large scale scenes of nature and panoramic views. Grace also looks for small spaces that uncover the beauty in nature that is usually overlooked by the casual observer.



*A Place*

The exhibition runs **January 25 – April 25** and may be viewed during normal business hours. Stop by the City Manager’s/City Clerk’s Office if the Council Chambers are not open.

Arts Benicia Presents is an adjunct, outreach program of [Arts Benicia](#). Through this program, Arts Benicia hosts sixteen member artist solo exhibitions per year. Exhibitions are juried by the Arts Benicia Presents Committee. 2016 exhibitions are located in three Benicia venues: [The Rellik Tavern](#), [Olson Realty, Inc.](#), and [Benicia City Council Chambers](#). – *City Manager’s Office*

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#### CONTACT INFORMATION

The City Manager’s Report from City of Benicia City Manager Brad Kilger is published twice monthly. Email your questions or comments to [edev@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:edev@ci.benicia.ca.us). For additional information on any of the items in this report, please contact one of the following departments:

[City Manager/Human Resources/I.T./City Clerk](#): 707.746.4200

[City Attorney](#): 707.746.4216

[Community Development](#): 707.746.4280

[Economic Development](#): 707.746.4202

[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