

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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February 9, 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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**T** EEN CENTER OPENS: The Benicia Police Department fully supports the new Hyland Teen Center. The City of Benicia and its staff have been meeting and working with the founder, Barbara Gervase, since the early days of the Center's genesis after the suicide of her son. Through Barbara's incredible strength and perseverance the Center has become a reality.

Located in space donated by The Gateway Church, 1315 Military West, the Hyland Teen Center is currently open Monday-Thursday, 3:00-6:30 PM, and Fridays, 1:00-8:00 PM. Hours may vary with increased volunteers support. The Center's membership is open to Benicia residents or BUSD students from 13 - 19 years of age.



*Vice Mayor Mark Hughes, Barbara Gervase (mother of Kyle Hyland), & Chief Upson at the January 21 grand opening of the Hyland Teen Center*

The Benicia Police Department hopes to continue to partner with the teen center and help



build stronger relationships between our officers and our community's teens. In support of the Center, the Police Department is currently offering Live Scan fingerprinting of volunteers free of charge. Those interested in volunteering must first apply here: [kylehyland.com/pdf/volunteering.pdf](http://kylehyland.com/pdf/volunteering.pdf). For more information on the Hyland Teen Center and teen support in Benicia, go to [www.KyleHyland.com](http://www.KyleHyland.com). – Police Department

**HOLIDAY CLOSURE:** Benicia City Offices, the Benicia Community Center and the Benicia Public Library will be closed **Friday, February 12** for Lincoln's Birthday and **Monday, February 15** for President's Day.



Requests for emergency water and sewer service may be made at the Benicia Police Department, 200 East L Street or 707.745.3411. – *City Manager's Office*

**SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES OFFERED:** Because of its popularity, the Solano County Department of Health and Social Services, Health Promotion and Community Wellness Bureau is offering two additional free smoking cessation classes for Solano County residents, starting next month.

The County's "Kick the Butts" smoking cessation program is a series of five classes for adults that focuses on overcoming nicotine addiction by using support systems, rewards, nutrition and stress reduction, all in a friendly and comfortable setting.

There are two, five-week series being offered in February:

- **Wednesdays, February 17-March 16** from 2:00-4:00 PM at 275 Beck Avenue in Fairfield, Conference Room 1
- **Thursdays, February 18-March 17** from 2:00-4:00 PM at 355 Tuolumne Street in Vallejo, Conference Room F-3114



The smoking cessation classes are first-come-first-serve and will fill quickly. Secure your spot today by calling 707.784.8900 to register. Additional free smoking cessation resources are at [www.TobaccoFreeSolano.org](http://www.TobaccoFreeSolano.org).

The program is supported by the Solano County Board of Supervisors, who adopted a new smoke-free policy in 2015, making all Solano County facilities, parks and campuses smoke-free. The policy aims to improve air quality and the health and wellness of County employees, residents and visitors.

The Solano County Department of Health and Social Services, Health Promotion and Community Wellness Bureau's mission is to maximize personal and community wellness by promoting healthy behaviors and environments in our county. For more information please visit [www.VibeSolano.com](http://www.VibeSolano.com). – *City Manager's Office*

**AWARD WINNERS:** The City of Benicia celebrated its employees at the recent annual Employee Recognition Dinner. Employees were recognized for years of service, new hires, new positions, retirements, spotlighted accomplishments, and the annual overall recognition awards listed at left and below. The City Manager and City Council congratulated employees on their achievements and milestones reached in 2015 and congratulated all City of Benicia employees on a continued “job well done”. – *Human Resources*



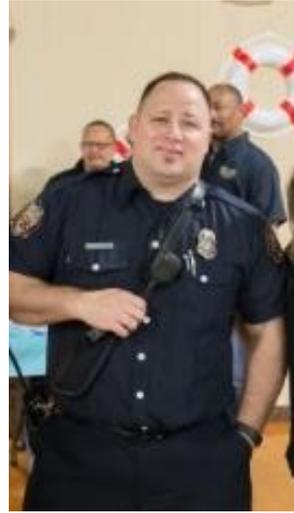
*Steve Schueler  
Employee of the Year  
(General)*



*Naveed Ashraf  
Rookie of the Year*



*Fred Ayala  
Safety Employee of the  
Year (Police)*



*Dave Calkins  
Safety Employee of the  
Year (Fire)*

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROGRAM:** The Benicia Public Library and Soroptimist International of Benicia are sponsoring a Human Trafficking Program on **Saturday, February 20** at 10:00 AM at the Benicia Public Library. Their keynote speakers are Krishna Abrams of the District Attorney for Solano County and Linda Witong, a human trafficking advocate and NGO delegate for the United Nations. They will answer these questions:

What is it?

Why should we care?

What can we do?

Doors open at 9:30 AM for the free program. More information is available at [SoroptimistofBenicia.org](http://SoroptimistofBenicia.org). – *Library*



**PHOTO CONTEST:** [VisitBenicia.org](http://VisitBenicia.org), the tourism arm of the Economic Development Division, announces the launch of their annual Digital Photo Contest. They are looking for striking digital images that highlight the beauty, fun, adventure, history, and charm of Benicia. If you're out and about snapping photos with your camera or phone, enter your best for a chance at dollars in your pocket.



Four Categories: History, Arts, Shopping/Dining, Scenic/Fun

Prizes:

Grand Prize: 250 Downtown Dollars

First Place (each category): 100 in Downtown Dollars

Second Place (each category): 50 in Downtown Dollars

A selection of entries is available to view on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com).

The contest runs through December 31, 2016.

[Click here](#) for more information, the Fine Print and the Really Fine Print or contact staff at [edev@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:edev@ci.benicia.ca.us) or 707.746.4202. – *Economic Development*

**THE POOL IS OPEN!** The James Lemos Swim Center opened on February 1 for the 2016 season. Lap swim is 3:30 - 5:30 PM, Monday – Friday, and 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday. Hours will change throughout the spring, please call the pool for updated hours at 707.746.4286. Registration is open for April swim lessons and water polo. Recreation swim begins in May. – *Parks & Community Services*





*Summer Outdoor Movies in the Park*

**A**WARD-WINNING DEPARTMENT: The Local Happenings – 2016 Local’s Choice Award for Children’s Activities – Solano goes to Benicia Parks & Community Services!

They would like to thank all of their wonderful customers for nominating & voting for them for the best Children’s Activities. They appreciate their amazing and talented staff and instructors. They deserve a special thank you for all they do all year long to make our community safe, fun and meaningful.

Benicia Parks & Community Services offer a wide variety of fun, active & educational activities for children. There are so many options for children to enjoy on their own or together with their family. For a complete list of their programs be sure to check out the Activity Guide, which can be found on the [City of Benicia webpage](#) and is delivered to Benicia homes three times per year.

Here are just a few activities children can’t get enough of: Summer Outdoor Movies, Tiny Tots Pre-School, Kindergym, Kids K afterschool program, dance classes, gymnastics, Karate, Judo, cooking classes, Skate Camp, Youth Orchestra, sewing classes, Adventures Day Camp and much, much more. There’s something for every kid at Parks & Community Services. – *Parks & Community Services*



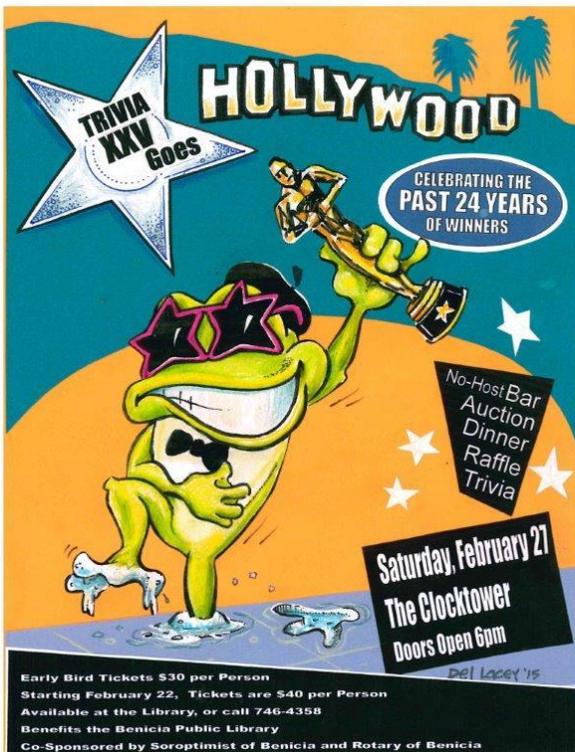
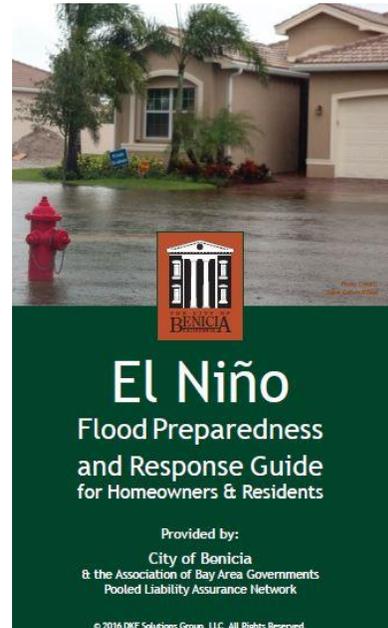
*Tiny Tots Pre-School*



*Kindergym*



**FLOOD PREPAREDNESS:** The current break in the winter weather is a great time to prepare for the effects of heavy rains. Check out our [El Nino Flood Preparedness Guide](#). It's full of information on what to do before (now!), during and after a flood or severe winter storm. You can pick up a copy at the Library or Public Works Department or download it online and keep a copy with your emergency supplies. – *Public Works*



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

Tickets are for the fun-filled night of trivia, food, drinks, and fun 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*

**JOIN THE CHALLENGE:** Benicia, Martinez, Richmond, El Cerrito, and San Pablo are competing to show off their energy saving skills. Save the most and you could win 2 tickets to the CAL vs UCLA basketball game on February 25! The three communities that earn the most points between **February 1 - 16** will award game tickets to the household that earned the most points during that same time period.

How it works?

[Register](#), it's easy as 1, 2, 3.

[Enter](#) simple information that figures out how you compare to other households.

[Take action](#) from customized tips for saving energy and save \$\$\$.

Sign up for the Challenge today at [MyEnergyTool.MCECleanEnergy.com/](http://MyEnergyTool.MCECleanEnergy.com/). – *Community Development*



**YOUTH BASKETBALL:** You might be a big fan of Super Bowl Sunday, but Benicia Parks & Community Services loves their Super BALL Saturdays. Saturdays in January and February are all about basketball, when more than 550 kids in the youth league hit the courts to play some friendly games of hoop. With divisions for Kindergarteners to 8<sup>th</sup> graders, for both boys and girls, as well as a division of adaptive basketball for our kiddos with varying needs, the sound of squeaky shoes on the floor and balls bouncing on the hardwood fills the air.



Our 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade players practice one night a week and then have games on Saturdays at Benicia Middle School, Benicia High School, and the City Gym. Our Kindergarteners and our adaptive teams all practice and play at the Benicia Community Center each Saturday. The emphasis of the program is on recreational play, on exposure to fundamental basketball skills, rules and regulations, and most importantly, on having FUN!! Each team of 10-11 kids is coached by a parent volunteer.

We want to thank all of our volunteer coaches for their dedication and the many hours they spend mentoring our hoopsters. The season will end the last weekend in February, so there is still time to drop by a Saturday game to see the kids in action. – *Parks & Community Services*



**CHIEF'S COIN PRESENTATION:** On Thursday, January 28, Chief Upson presented the Chief's Coin to Lt. Damiean Sylvester, and Human Resources employees Shelsie Rishell and Kim Imboden. They have been instrumental in the recruitment and hiring of several new police department employees over the past year. In all, they completed 18 Police Department recruitments! Police recruitments are typically more labor intensive, requiring additional background checks and medical screenings. Their hard work resulted in the hiring of quality employees.



In addition, Human Resources conducted promotional exams for Police Sergeant and Police Lieutenant, resulting in internal promotions within the department.

Thanks Damiean, Shelsie and Kim! We appreciate everything you do for us. - *Police*



## REMODELING YOUR HOME?



FURNACE • AIR CONDITIONER  
WATER HEATER  
POOL • DECKS • ADDITION TO YOUR HOME  
KITCHEN REMODEL • BATHROOM REMODEL  
ROOF REPLACEMENT • WINDOW REPLACEMENT

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## THE VALUE OF OBTAINING A BUILDING PERMIT

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**Knowledge:** By working with the City's Building Inspectors, you benefit from their knowledge of building codes to ensure your construction project is built right, will be safe and will last.

**Quality Construction:** When a building permit is obtained, the property owner receives expert inspection by a third party unbiased building inspector.

**Protects:** Homeowner's insurance covers work completed with a building permit and may **not** cover work done without a permit.

**Increased Value:** A permit adds assurance to prospective property buyers who check to see if building permits have been obtained for work on property they hope to purchase.

*Building Division\* City of Benicia \* 250 East L Street \* Benicia \* CA \* 94510 \* 707.746.4230 \* comdev@ci.benicia.ca.us*

**ADULT VOLLEYBALL:** First serve for our adult volleyball league was on January 25 at the City Gym. We have 8 teams registered this season, so we have both courts active on Monday nights. Thus far competition is fierce and friendly. The regular season will run until March 14, with each team getting the opportunity to face off against every other team. March 25 will be the Championship night where the top teams will pass, set, and spike their way towards a championship t-shirt.



This is our first league of 2016, but there will be more to come. They hope to grow the league and offer new and exciting volleyball options as the year progresses.

Not ready for competition? Try Drop-in Volleyball on Tuesday and Friday nights (7:00-10:00 PM at City Gym) to work on your skills and meet fellow players. Who knows, maybe you might be sporting a stylish Championship t-shirt before the year is done! – *Parks & Community Services*

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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