



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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February 23, 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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**CRIME UPDATE:** Chief of Police Erik Upson recently send a memo to the City Manager providing an update on crime in Benicia. He described the current statistics, provided anecdotal examples, discussed successes and goals for the upcoming year to maintain our safe city and reduce property crime. [Click here](#) to read the update and discover what you can do to help keep Benicia safe.



For more information, contact [Kelly Botello](#) at 707.746.4265. – *Police Department*

**GREAT DECISIONS SERIES: Monday, February 29** is the date for the next installment of the Great Decisions series. Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. It provides background information and policy options for eight critical issues facing Americans each year. After the discussion, participants can complete a national opinion ballot to communicate their views to Congress and the White House.

All discussions free to attend and run from 7:00–8:45 PM at Benicia Public Library.

Upcoming discussion in the Great Decisions Series 2016 are:

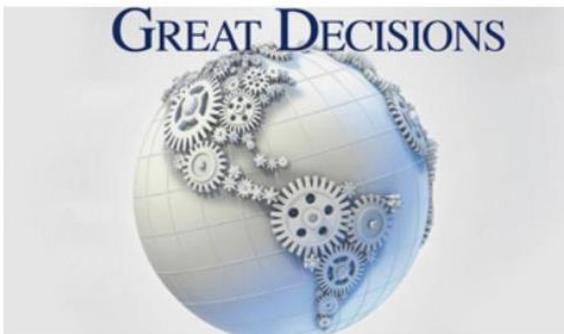
February 29 on [The Koreas](#)

March 14 on [The United Nations](#)

March 21 on [Climate Change](#)

March 28 on [Cuba and the U.S.](#)

-Library



**VOTE FOR BENICIA'S BEST:** Here it is! The [Best of the East Bay](#) ballot—where you can vote for your favorite East Bay (and Benicia, specifically) restaurants, shops, services, kid-friendly places, fun spots, style finds and more!

Take a moment to vote in at least 20 categories, and you'll be entered to win a three-night stay at the Silverado Resort and Spa in Napa, plus a round of golf, and dinner for two at The Grill at Silverado.

Voting closes **Sunday, March 6**. They will announce the winners in their special Best of the East Bay issue in July.  
– *Economic Development*



**PRESERVATION EDUCATION WORKSHOP:** The City of Benicia and the Benicia Capitol State Historic Park will host an Office of Historic Preservation "Preservation Education Workshop" on **Friday, March 18, 2016**. The workshop will be held in the Benicia Capitol State Historic Park at First and West G Streets.



Sessions will include discussion on the legal foundation of historic preservation, and how to use the Mills Act and other incentives to encourage historic preservation in your community. Attendees will learn about the direct and indirect economic benefits that local governments can expect from local historic district and landmark designations, and how historic contexts and surveys can help lay a foundation for effective historic

preservation planning.

To register, go to [www.surveymonkey.com/r/cobenicia](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cobenicia). – *Community Development*

**FREE TAX PREPARATION HELP:** Volunteer tax preparers from the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program will be in the Benicia Public Library's Dona Benicia Room every Friday through **April 8** from 12:00 - 4:00 PM. The program provides FREE tax preparation services for seniors and low- to middle-income taxpayers. Visit the [Library](#) or call 707.746.4343 for an appointment. – *Library*



**BENICIA'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE & CONSERVATION EFFORTS - LEADERSHIP, SAFETY AND RELIABILITY:** As you may know, earlier this year a Solano County Grand Jury Report found that all County cities, including Benicia, experienced unnecessary water loss due to aging, leaking infrastructure.

To date, Benicia has addressed over 80 leaks per year in our pipelines, strengthened our Emergency Response Plan with critical sewer line repairs and debris removal, and reduced water consumption by up to 43% -- well beyond the State mandate, thanks to the community's conservation efforts.

# Benicia Saving Water Starts With You

Despite these actions, the fact remains that Benicia has an aging water and sewer system that is nearly 80 years old.

All Solano County cities have old, deteriorating water and sewer infrastructure that includes outdated pipes that continue to jeopardize conservation efforts, the environment and public safety. Both our water and sewer systems are critical to our community's continued water conservation leadership, safety and water reliability.

Benicia gets nearly 85% percent of its water from the State Water Project. As we now know, there is no guarantee whatsoever that Benicia residents will continue to receive the water the State previously agreed to supply. In 2014, the City was forced to purchase water at a cost of \$900,000. We must be able to increase the reliability of our own local water supply and be self-sufficient.

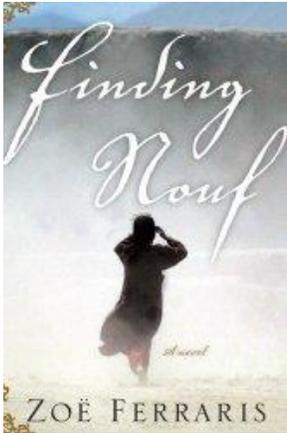
Ongoing preventative maintenance and upgraded infrastructure cannot be further delayed or deferred for the health, safety and financial risks to our community amid new requirements to conserve water and increase public health and safety.

On **March 1, 2016**, City Staff will introduce a Water/Wastewater Rate Study to the City Council, as part of the steps the City is taking to continue the community's leading conservation efforts, safety, and water reliability. For more information about Benicia's water infrastructure and conservation efforts, please see our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Community Presentation](#) information. – *Public Works*



**WARM SEASON VEGETABLE GARDENING:** Join Master Gardeners Judy Hager and Patty Chapman for a free workshop at Benicia Public Library on **Thursday, March 10** at 6:00PM. Learn how to prepare your garden soil & what vegetable groups to plant! - *Library*

**MEET THE AUTHOR:** Mystery writer Zoë Ferraris will be at Benicia Public Library on **Wednesday, March 2** at 7:00 PM to discuss her books set in Saudia Arabia. *Finding Nouf* won the LA Times Book Award and an ALA Alex Award. All three of her books are international bestsellers!



Bookshop Benicia will be at the event with books available for purchase. – *Library*

**STUDENTS RIDE FREE DURING SPRING BREAK:** It's that time again! Throughout Spring Break (**Monday, March 21-Sunday, April 1**) ALL students ride FREE on ALL LOCAL SolTrans buses. Youth

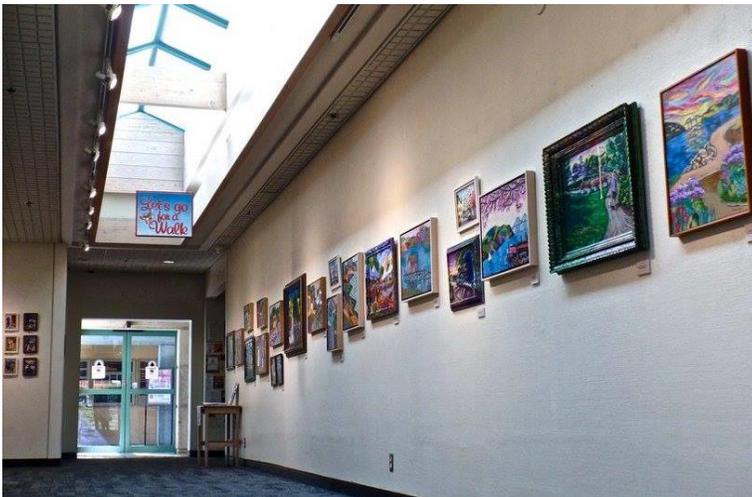
ride free (ages 6 to 18), college students please present your valid Student ID when boarding for a free ride.

Students using Clipper? Take a spring break from tagging your Clipper card during these dates (but don't forget to tag again starting April 2). Clipper cards tagged during the promotion will be charged the regular fare.



Please note that the reduced fares are not available for Solano Express Multi-Zone routes. Check [www.SoltransRide.com](http://www.SoltransRide.com) for schedules and routes. – *City Manager's Office*

**WHAT'S NEW AT THE O'ROURKE GALLERY?** *Let's Go For a Walk - Benicia's Wonderful*



*Waterfront* is an exhibition by artists Mernie Buchanan and Nancy Freeman, which runs **February 24-March 26** at Benicia Public Library Marilyn Citron O'Rourke Gallery.

Nancy and Mernie have been creating art in Benicia for a combined 45 years. Nancy Freeman's colorful, geometric style has evolved from her roots as a textile and appliqué artisan. She observes Benicia-scapes with a sophisticated use of color and playful treatment of shapes and perspectives.

Mernie Buchanan, on the other hand,

has detoured from a twelve year interpretive exploration of museum masterpieces to painting things that make her happy while walking her Chihuahua.

Meet the artists at the Artist's Reception on **Saturday, March 19**, 1:00 - 4:00 PM at the gallery. – *Library*

**MEET BEAR:** Local residents are invited to visit Benicia Main Street for a Leap Year weekend event on **Sunday, February 28** to meet “Bear”, Energy Upgrade California’s® biggest fan. Bear is on a mission to help “leap” Benicia ahead in the statewide competition among 22 cities vying for \$150,000 in grants awarded to California’s Coolest, most sustainable cities from October 2015 to March 2016.

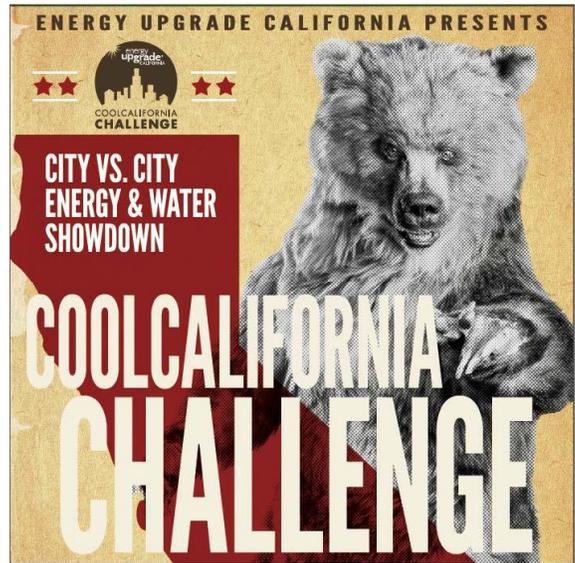
Bear will be available for pictures with Benicia families at a special photo booth at the Benicia Main Street Office and Gift Shop, 90 First Street, between 12:00-4:00 PM.

Benicia residents who receive a PG&E bill are eligible to participate in the CoolCalifornia Challenge. There is no cost requirement to join, and simply registering helps our city receive points to improve our results. Households who demonstrate measurable energy reductions in their water, electric and natural gas consumption can earn additional points for Benicia.

“We vigorously support The Challenge through our Main Street events because it is consistent with the core values of the national Main Street vision”, said Nancy Martinez, Executive Director of Benicia Main Street. “Community involvement and participation in our city’s sustainability effort keeps a healthy quality of life for Benicians. I encourage households to rise to the challenge and invest in energy efficiency to help meet the city’s environmental goals.”

The CoolCalifornia Challenge is one of many beneficial programs developed as a result of landmark legislation called the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 32), which puts California at the forefront of efforts to battle climate change by requiring that greenhouse gas emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020.

For more info about the CoolCalifornia Challenge Benicia, visit [www.mcecleanenergy.org/coolcalifornia](http://www.mcecleanenergy.org/coolcalifornia). For more information about Bear in Benicia, Benicia Main Street at 707.745.0791 or [www.BeniciaMainStreet.org](http://www.BeniciaMainStreet.org). – *Community Development*



**BEAR CHEERS BENICIA TO “LEAP AHEAD” IN STATEWIDE COMPETITION**

Meet Bear in person and get your FREE souvenir family photo!



Sunday February 28<sup>th</sup> Noon-4pm  
Main Street Gift Shop  
90 First Street Downtown Benicia  
Call (707)745-0791 for information



**TEEN T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST:** Want to win \$100?? Come up with the best design for this year's teen volunteer t-shirt by **Sunday, February 28** at 5:00 PM. You don't have to be a teen volunteer to enter, just 13-16 years old by entry date.

[Click here](#) for the entry form and complete details. - *Library*

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:** The City of Benicia is requesting proposals from qualified firms to assist the City with professional Building Official, Plan Check, Inspection Services, and Valero Annual Permit Services for the Community Development Department.



Proposals will be received at the Community Development Department, City Hall, 250 East L Street, Benicia, CA 94510, until the hour of 4:00 PM on **Friday, March 18, 2016.**

The Request for Proposals for this work may be obtained by [clicking here](#) or at the Community Development Department in City Hall (lower level) at 250 East L Street, Benicia. For further information, contact [Teresa Olson](#) at 707.746.4280. – *Community Development*



**SPRING TEA:** Soroptimist of Benicia is hosting their annual Spring Tea fundraiser on **Sunday, March 20** at Camellia Tea Room. Seatings are at 11:00 AM, 1:00 and 3:00 PM.

Soroptimists raise funds year-long to support scholarships for high schoolers and women heads of households returning to school to improve their earning ability, and to supply the closet of emergency supplies for the Police Department’s Family Resource Center clients and other folks in need, as well as their efforts to creating and fund a local shelter for women.

The day will features spring hats, traditional tea, raffles and a spring fashion show. Seating is limited. Reservations and tickets are available by calling Camellia Tea Room at

707.746.5293. – *City Attorney’s Office*

**VOTE NOW!** It’s time to vote for your top **three** choices for the movies you’d like to see under the stars in City Park this summer. Choices are:

- Minions (PG)
- Inside Out (PG)
- The Good Dinosaur (PG)
- Hotel Transylvania 2 (PG)
- Zootopia (PG)

- Goosebumps (PG)
- Zookeeper (PG)
- Field of Dreams (PG)
- The Karate Kid (PG)
- Norm of the North (PG)

Stop by the Community Center at 370 East L Street to vote or email [Debbi Bray](#) by **Monday, February 29.** – *Parks & Community Services*





**March 09, 2016**

**8:00-10:00am**

**Huckleberry's  
Restaurant  
800 Southampton Rd,  
Benicia**

**JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS AND LOCAL  
LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR COFFEE AND  
CONVERSATION!**

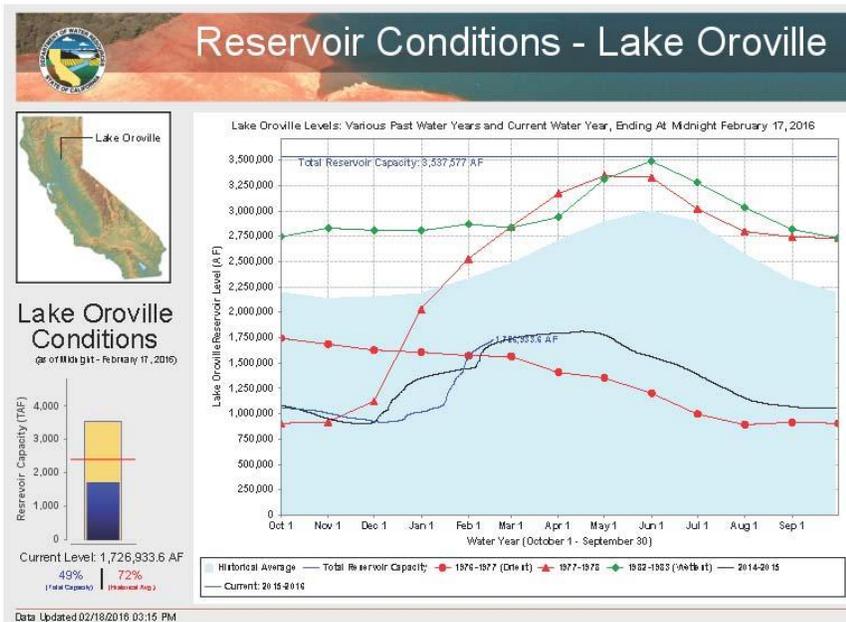
**No agenda or speeches, just a chance to ask questions, voice  
concerns, and get to know the officers in your neighborhood!**

**Questions? Please Contact: Deputy Castillo 707-784-7511,  
Officer Harvey 707-428-2100 or BPD Volunteer Coordinator Patti Barron 707-746-4268**

**Solano County Sheriff's Office,  
California Highway Patrol,  
Benicia Police Department**



**SNOWPACK HOLDS MORE WATER THAN LAST YEAR, BUT DROUGHT CONDITIONS CONTINUE AND SO SHOULD CONSERVATION:** Rainfall and the Sierra Nevada's snowpack's water content are both markedly improved this water year and storage in the state's major reservoirs also has increased significantly since January 1. While precipitation this water year is improved over last year, that's not to say California's long drought is over. Most of the state's major reservoirs still hold much less water than their historical averages for February. Californians are encouraged to continue their water conservation.



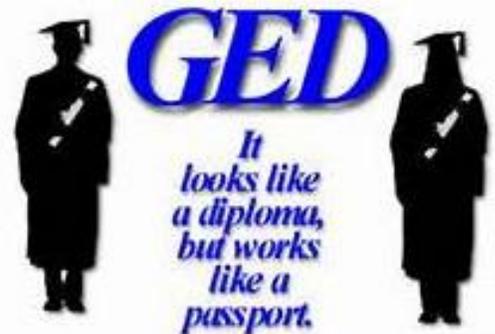
In normal years, the snowpack supplies about 30 percent of California's water needs as it melts in the spring and early summer. The greater the snowpack water content, the greater likelihood California's reservoirs will receive ample runoff as the snowpack melts to meet the state's water demands in the summer and fall.

Four years of drought have left a water deficit around the state that may be difficult to overcome in just

one winter season. The state's major water supply reservoirs are still below average storage for this date. Detailed information on reservoir storage can be found at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/resapp/getResGraphsMain.action>

Conservation – the wise, sparing use of water – remains California's most reliable drought management tool. Each individual act of conservation, such as letting the lawn go brown or replacing a washer in a faucet to stop a leak, makes a difference over time. – *Public Works*

**GET YOUR GED:** Free GED classes will begin on **Wednesday, March 2**. Classes will be held two days a week on Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 8:30 PM and Friday mornings, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. To pre-register, call 707.746.4341 or go to the Adult Literacy Office at the Library, Monday-Thursday, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM. – *Library*



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

- [Recreation Leader II - Adult Softball Scorekeeper](#), part-time, 03/01/16
- [Building Official](#), full-time, closing 03/11/16
- [Irrigation Specialist](#), full-time, closing 03/11/16
- [Recreation Leader - \(Pool Cashier\)](#), part-time
- [Police Officer - Lateral \(currently working\)](#), full-time, open continuously
- [Reserve Officer \(Volunteer\)](#), part-time, continuous

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*

**New to the Library:** **Megan Segle** joined the City of Benicia as the new Children's Librarian on January 19. For the past year and a half Megan was a project assistant for the California Audiovisual Preservation Project, helping to digitize, preserve and provide online access to historic California audiovisual recordings.

Before library school, Megan coordinated fundraising campaigns and events, and wrote and managed grants at the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center in San Francisco. She interned at the Mill Valley Public Library and the California Historical Society, and has volunteered as a creative writing tutor and mentor. She has a BA in English Literature from San Francisco State and an MLIS from San Jose State University. Megan grew up in Benicia and now lives here with her partner, Chris, and their two-year old son, Owen. -



*Library*



**Parks Promotion:** The Parks & Community Services Department is excited to announce that **Keith Lederer** has been promoted to Maintenance Worker III in the Parks Division. They are very excited for Keith and know he will do an excellent job. In order to allow for a smooth transition Keith will continue to assist Building Maintenance until they are able to hire his replacement. - *Parks & Community Services*

**New to Public Works:** As of January 11, **Ronoldo Curva** is the new Maintenance Mechanic for the Public Works Department Waste Water Treatment Plant. He comes to the City Benicia after having served 14 years in the Air Force as an Aerospace Ground Equipment Craftsman and at United Rentals as a Service Manager.

He grew up in Vallejo and currently lives in Fairfield with his two dogs and three chickens. His interests are geared towards outdoor activities like hunting and fishing, and riding his motorcycles (a Harley and a Triumph). When indoors, he enjoys cooking and prepares all types of food (but desserts!).



**Benjamin Hirsch** is a new Field, Utilities and Street Apprentice for the Sewer Field crew. He was born and raised in Benicia and graduated from Liberty High School. He spent 4½ years working in the City’s Parks Department as a facility worker. He enjoys spending time working on his car and hiking with his dogs. He says he’s really excited to be working for the City of Benicia in the Public Works Department.

**Ian Wilcott** is also a new Field, Utilities and Street Apprentice for the Sewer Field crew. He was born in Decatur, Illinois and grew up all around the states, living in Texas, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, California and Minnesota. He is a devoted husband and loving father of two boys, Connor and Liam, who are his current hobbies, but he says he considers himself a student of this wonderful universe of ours.



**Daniel Napier** is a new Field, Utilities and Street Apprentice for the Water Field crew. He was born and raised in the Bay Area. He lives in Martinez with his wife and five children, ages 11 to 16. They are very involved in youth sports and spend most of their free time with their kids and working on their home. He also enjoys travelling when time permits. He has been in the BACWWE program since 2009 for wastewater education. He says he is very excited to be working for the City of Benicia. – *Public Works*

Please join me in congratulating Keith, and welcoming Megan, Ronoldo, Benjamin, Ian, and Daniel to the City of Benicia family. – *City Manager*

**TRIVIA XXV Goes**

# HOLLYWOOD

CELEBRATING THE PAST 24 YEARS OF WINNERS

No-Host Bar  
Auction  
Dinner  
Raffle  
Trivia

**Saturday, February 27**  
**The Clocktower**  
**Doors Open 6pm**

*Del Lacey '15*

Early Bird Tickets \$30 per Person  
Starting February 22, Tickets are \$40 per Person  
Available at the Library, or call 746-4358  
Benefits the Benicia Public Library  
Co-Sponsored by Soroptimist of Benicia and Rotary of Benicia

**MOVIE MORNINGS FOR SENIORS:** Come have some fun, join in the laughter and give yourself a treat! The movies are free and require no registration.



First Thursdays  
10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

**April 7**—”Something’s Gotta Give” with Jack Nicholson, Diane Keaton and Amanda Peet

**May 5** — “The Bucket List” with Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman

-Library

**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:

- **R.D. Kincaide, Inc.** – 3070 Bay Vista Court, Suite A, owners: Timothy and Jeffrey Kincaide. Manufacturer’s representative in the plumbing industry
- **Serena & Lily, Inc.** – 6500 Goodyear Road, owners: Lori Greeley and Phil Neri. Distribution center for home furnishing products company.
- **Kustom Kev’s** – 4588 East Second Street, Ste H, owner: Kevin Mathews. Tuning race cars with a chassis dynamometer.
- **Phillips 66 Spectrum Corp.** – 6100 Egret Court, owners: Charles Reis and Kerry Creager. Wholesale and packaging of lubricant products.
- **C & C Auto Care** – 4251 Park Road, owner: Nathan Clemons. General automotive repair.
- **Clifford Hoffman DO MPH** – 831 East Second Street, Ste 103, owner: Clifford Hoffman. Board certified family practitioner providing medical care to children and adults.
- **K9 Manufacturing LLC** – 6830 Goodyear Road, owner: Kevin Lettire. Equipment leasing services.
- **Amso Healthy Chiropractic** – 310 Military West, owner: Bashar Amso. Chiropractic health care.



- Economic Development



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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