



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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March 22, 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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**DROUGHT RESTRICTIONS CHANGE APRIL 1:** Even with recent rains, water conservation is still needed. Benicia's watering restrictions for automatic sprinkler systems change on **April 1** to no more than three days per week, through October 15.

Addresses ending in **ODD** numbers (1,3,5,7,9,) can water on  
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only

Addresses ending in **EVEN** numbers (0,2,4,6,8) can water on  
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays only

Watering on these days is allowed **before 8:00 AM** and **after 7:00 PM** only

Exemptions include:

Efficient, low-volume irrigation (such as drip irrigation)

Watering container plants

Hoses with automatic shut-off nozzles

New drought-tolerant landscaping (may be watered four days per week for the first year)

These watering restrictions were adopted by the Benicia City Council. Learn more at

[BeniciaSavesWater.org](http://BeniciaSavesWater.org) or by contacting our Water Conservation Team at 707.746.4380 or [water@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:water@ci.benicia.ca.us). – *Public Works*



**POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:** The Benicia Police Department monthly report for February 2016 is now available. It contains a monthly wrap-up of Community Services, Professional Development, Statistics, and Interesting Case Summaries. [Click here](#) to read more. – *Police Department*

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**MILLS ACT WORKSHOP:** We want to hear from you! The City of Benicia will host a Public Workshop on the City's Mills Act Program.

**Tuesday, March 29**

6:30 PM

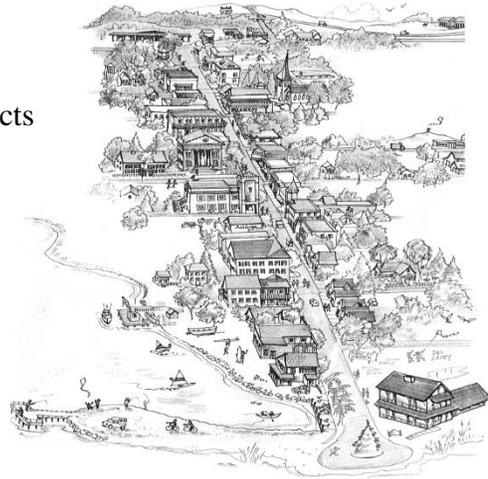
Benicia Public Library Dona Benicia Room  
150 East L Street

What is the Mills Act? The Mills Act is a State law that allows cities and owners of historic structures to enter into contracts that decrease property tax in exchange for continued preservation of buildings and property. Property tax can be reduced by 50 percent or more under Mills Act contracts.

The purpose of the workshop is to discuss topics listed below and elicit new ideas and input from the community. The community's input will be presented to the Historic Preservation Review Commission (HPRC) where they will make a recommendation to City Council on potential program changes.

Discussion topics:

Maintenance Only Contracts vs. Rehabilitation Contracts  
Inclusion of Non-Historic Properties  
Establishing a Property Valuation Threshold  
Preservation and Economic Hardship  
Level of Historic Significance  
Sustainable or "Green" Rehabilitation  
Identifying "Appropriate Improvements"  
Architectural Styles/Neighborhoods  
Fees and Recovering Costs  
Your ideas!



For further information please call Amy Million, Principal Planner, at 707.746.4372 or [amillion@benicia.org](mailto:amillion@benicia.org). – *Community Development*

**SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE:** Congressman Mike Thompson (CA-05) and Congressman John Larson (D-CT) are hosting a discussion about securing Social Security for the next generation and improving benefits for today's seniors.

**Wednesday, March 30**

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Benicia Senior Center, 187 East L Street



They are proposing legislation that if enacted, would keep Social Security solvent through 2100, modestly increase benefits for all beneficiaries and alter the formula used to determine COLAs each year so as to more accurately reflect the cost of living for seniors. If you'd like to attend, please RSVP at 707.645.1888 or [RSVP.Vallejo@mail.house.gov](mailto:RSVP.Vallejo@mail.house.gov) – *City Manager's Office*

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**NEW BUSINESS LICENSE PARTNER:** The City of Benicia is pleased to announce changes to the business licensing process that are designed to streamline the procedure for businesses operating in the city limits of Benicia. The City has contracted with the HdL Companies to provide assistance to the business community for their business licensing needs. The HdL Business Support Center will provide our business community with helpful support for all aspects of licensing, including: application, payment, certificate issuance, and general support. The Business Support Center offers extended telephone support hours (Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM) via a toll free telephone number at 888.602.0239 or by email at [Support@HdLgov.com](mailto:Support@HdLgov.com).



During the upcoming renewal period, the Business Support Center will also offer a variety of online support options allowing for filing and paying a business license online as well as obtain copies of forms and other relevant information. To file, renew, or pay a balance online, please visit the City’s website at [www.ci.benicia.ca.us](http://www.ci.benicia.ca.us) and click on the link for business licenses.

The City of Benicia is very excited about these new options underscoring our commitment to providing excellent customer service to residents and the business community. – *Finance Department*

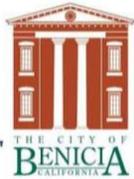


**FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING ON VIDEO:** Training is a high priority to the Benicia Fire Department. Check out these two videos from recent training exercises posted on the [Benicia Fire Department Facebook](#) page and LIKE the page while you’re there!

Benicia Reserve and Apprentice firefighters performing live fire training. The Benicia Fire Department thanks the Hayward Fire Department for allowing them to use their burn training facility: <https://www.facebook.com/LiveFireTraining>

REACH Air Ambulance Training at Ninth Street Alvarez Park: <https://www.facebook.com/AirAmbulanceTraining> - *Fire Department*

**FREE BUSINESS TRAINING:** Are you thinking of starting your own business? Solano Small Business Development Center is providing free training for start-up businesses, sponsored by the City of Benicia Office of Economic Development. Besides receiving valuable business training, you could win \$5,000 in start-up assistance. Find out more at [www.SolanoSBDC.com](http://www.SolanoSBDC.com). – *Economic Development*



# BENICIA START-UP COMPETITION



CREATIVITY & INNOVATION = SUCCESS



The Start-Up Benicia competition being held at Solano Community College is an opportunity for prospective entrepreneurs and start-ups to showcase their ideas and business concepts.

The competition connects aspiring entrepreneurs to successful business owners, consultants, local agencies and funders. The competition is a tool that is geared to strengthen our start-up community by providing entrepreneurs with the knowledge of opening and managing a successful small business.

## **REGISTER ONLINE**

### **APPLICATION DUE DATE**

**April 15, 2016**

[www.solanosbdc.org](http://www.solanosbdc.org)

- ◆ Click on **SBDC Workshops** underneath Events banner
- ◆ Click Benicia Start-Up Competition
- ◆ Fill out Registration form and Questionnaire.
- ◆ You will receive a call on **April 22nd** of your acceptance into the program
- ◆ Good luck!
- ◆ Participants will receive an acceptance notification via email on or before April 22, 2016.
- ◆ **CLASS DATES:** April 27- June 8, 2016

### **For more information**

**(707) 864-3382**

[sbdcdirector@solano.edu](mailto:sbdcdirector@solano.edu)

### **Eligibility:**

- ◆ This competition is open to entrepreneurs in the start-up phase.
- ◆ **Existing business are ineligible.**
- ◆ Open to all Solano County Residences.
- ◆ Participants must establish their business in the City of Benicia
- ◆ Participants must be age 18 or older

### **JUDGING CRITERIA:**

The judging panel will consist of successful business owners and officials from the Benicia Economic Development Department.

### **COMPETITORS WIN!!!**

- ◆ FREE ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION
- ◆ Networking opportunities
- ◆ Certificate of Completion for all participants
- ◆ **GRAND PRIZE WINNER** - Wins up to \$5000.00 in start-up assistance (sponsored by the City of Benicia Economic Development Division)

Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA or HSU Sponsored Programs Foundation.

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Contact **Melissa Pegg** at 707-864-3382 or email [sbdcdirector@solano.edu](mailto:sbdcdirector@solano.edu).



**WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW FOR UPCOMING ELECTIONS:** Are you registered to vote? According to the Solano County Registrar of Voters, to vote for candidates for the office of President in the **June 7** Primary, you must choose to vote American Independent Party, Democratic Party, or Libertarian Party by **April 6**. To vote Republican, Green, or Peace & Freedom parties, you must register for one of those parties by **May 23**. You may register to vote online at [www.RegisterToVote.ca.gov](http://www.RegisterToVote.ca.gov).



On the Tuesday, November 8 ballot will be the Presidential election along with local elections for Mayor, two City Council Member seats, City Clerk, and City Treasurer. If you are interested in running for public office, you may pull candidate papers in the City Clerk's Office no sooner than **Monday, July 18**. You may register to vote in that election before Monday, October 24. You can pick up a voter registration form in the City Clerk's Office, at the Post Office, or [online](#). The City Clerk Lisa Wolfe will be happy to mail one to you if that is more convenient.

Voter registration, election information, and election results are available on the [Solano County Registrar of Voters](#) website. Local election information is available on the [City's website](#) or call the City Clerk's Office with questions at 707.746.4200. – *City Clerk's Office*

**VOTE FOR BENICIA MAIN STREET:** Independent We Stand, sponsored by Stihl, is a nationwide movement of locally-owned businesses and consumers who are dedicated to educating their communities about the importance – and strong economic benefits – of 'buying local'. To that end, they are hosting the America's Main Streets contest to help promote the importance and strong economic benefits of Main Streets and the small businesses that help them thrive.



America's Main Streets is sponsored by Independent We Stand which is all about independently owned businesses across the country reaching out to their communities and educating their neighbors about the many benefits of "[buying local](#)" similar to the "Shop Small" promotion by American Express. (Check out their Eat Local and Buy Local [gear](#).)

Vote for our own Main Street organization, Benicia Main Street, and increase their chance to win \$25,000 in cash and related prizes in the America's Main Streets Contest. It's easy to vote and you may [cast your vote](#) once a day or every 24 hours through **April 24**. – *Economic Development*

## PERSONNEL NEWS:

**City of Benicia Job Opportunities:** The Human Resources Department is accepting applications for the following positions:

- [Department Aide](#), part-time, closing 03/25/16
- [Recreation Leader II](#), part-time, closing 04/08/16
- [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 Volunteer Police Chaplain:** Chief Upson is pleased to introduce the department's newest Volunteer Police Chaplain, Chris Harris. Chris has been an executive pastor at New Harbor Community Church since 2013. He and his wife Angela live in Vallejo with their three children; Charlene age 15, Shanah age 11, and Isiah age 5. Chris was born and raised in Australia and moved to the United States in 2002. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Evangelical Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida. Chris has served as a pastor in Florida and Illinois; and also volunteered as a hospital hospice pastor. He enjoys working with youth at his church and spending time with his family and looks forward to working with the Police Department as a Chaplain. – *Police Department*



**Fire Department Honors:** The Annual Rotary Night of Honor was held on Friday, March 18, recognizing excellence in the Fire Service. Along with all Solano County Fire Agencies, the Benicia Fire Department honored their Firefighter of the Year - Paramedic/Firefighter Dave Calkins and Volunteer of the Year - Brian Pizzimenti. There were congratulated and thanked for their dedication and service to the Benicia Fire Department and the entire community. – *Fire Department*



*Firefighter of the Year  
Paramedic/Firefighter  
Dave Calkins*



*Volunteer of the Year  
Brian Pizzimenti*

Please join me in welcoming Chris and congratulating Dave and Brian for a job well done. – *City Manager*

**CURRENT LIBRARY STATISTICS:** The Benicia Public Library was a busy place in February:

- Total visitors: 18,318
- Record day of visitors on February 24 with 963 visitors
- Internet Sessions: 2,641
- Wireless Internet Sessions: 1,969
- Benicia Public Library Facebook views: 14,228
- Teen Zone Benicia Facebook views: 361

- *Library*



**SOLTRANS UNVEILS WORK OF LOCAL ARTIST:** SolTrans unveiled a prized piece of art by local artist, Mark Eanes, on March 23. Mark's piece is entitled, "Wheel of Time," and is prominently placed at the front entrance of SolTrans' Operations and Maintenance Facility located at 1850 Broadway in the City of Vallejo. He describes this piece as "a historical narrative of South Solano County's mass transit program for over a century."

As the Agency unveils this piece to the public, Mark wants to ensure that credit is given to James Kern, Executive Director of Vallejo Naval Historical Museum and Elizabeth d'Huart of Benicia's Camel Barn Museum. They were both very generous with their time and resources, and this piece could not have been done without them.



Mark Eanes is a painter, printmaker, photographer, curator, and educator who has been living and working in Benicia over the last 20 years. Mark is currently an Associate Professor of Art at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco. He has been an active member of the Benicia community, and is the former president of Arts Benicia where he continues to serve on its Board of Directors. He has shown his paintings throughout California, as well as nationally and internationally. His most recent project is a twenty-five foot mural installed at the new wing of Vallejo's Kaiser Hospital. His work may be found in numerous private and corporate collections. [Click here](#) for more information on the selection process. – *City Manager's Office*

**BUSINESS CONNECTIONS EXPO COMING:** The City of Benicia Office of Economic Development is an exhibitor at the upcoming Expo. Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, May 4, 4:30-7:00 PM** at the Specialty Events Center between Anheuser Busch and Jelly Belly in Fairfield. You do not need to be a members of a Chamber of Commerce to attend and benefit from this event. [Click here](#) for more information on the Expo. Updates on business seminars at the Expo will be coming soon. – *Economic Development*



**SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION &  
 SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER**  
**WITH FIRST NORTHERN BANK PRESENTS**





## 4TH ANNUAL SOLANO BUSINESS CONNECTIONS EXPO & SEMINAR

### May 4, 2016

.....WHERE BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS FROM EVERY CITY  
IN SOLANO COUNTY COME TOGETHER!

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 4, 2016    **EXPO TIME:** 4:30-7:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Specialty Event Center, 300 Chadbourne Road, Fairfield, CA



The can't-miss county-wide business event at a new, larger location!  
**Open to the public. Admission only \$10 for everyone.**

**Up to 150 vendor booths, 1,000 projected attendance, great food, micro brews, and the finest local wines from Suisun Valley and Winters.**

**Sponsorships & booths available: Curt Johnston, 707-249-1667 (cell).**

**Solano EDC & CHAMBERS:** ▪ Benicia ▪ Fairfield-Suisun  
 ▪ Solano County Black ▪ Dixon ▪ Solano Filipino-American  
 ▪ Solano Hispanic ▪ Rio Vista ▪ Vacaville ▪ Vallejo ▪ Winters

Business Seminar added for 2016! Luncheon keynote speaker will be Mo's Bows founder Moziah Bridges.

Booths for just \$295  
 email contact: [curt.johnston@solano.edu](mailto:curt.johnston@solano.edu)  
 web site: [foundation.solano.edu](http://foundation.solano.edu)

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS:

















## WINTER ADULT COED VOLLEYBALL:

Benicia Parks and Community Services just wrapped up the Winter Adult Coed Volleyball league. With two brackets of championship play, the City Gym was filled with excitement and fierce competition on Monday night, March 21. The bracket 1 finals saw Last Call taking on Hammertime. The scores themselves exemplify the intense battle to be champion: Game 1: 23-25; Game 2: 25-19; and Game 3: 15-14. Hammertime took home the championship shirts at the end of the 3 game match. Bracket 2 finals included Balls Out versus Ballers Grande. Balls Out emerged victorious, beating the competition in 2 games: Game 1: 25-20 and Game 2: 25-23.



*Bracket 1 Champs: Hammertime*

Though the winter season has come to an end, registration for Spring Coed Volleyball leagues

will open on **March 28**, with matches beginning on April 18. If you're interested in playing in the league, but that don't have a team, you are invited to attend open gyms on Mondays (7:00-10:00 PM), Tuesdays (7:00-10:00 PM), and Fridays (6:00-9:00 PM) to meet fellow players. Who knows who might be the newest team on the schedule next season?...it could be you!



*Bracket 2 Champs: Balls Out*

All the fun doesn't take place just in the gym: Fields are being prepped for the start of the Spring Adult Softball league, which starts the week of March 28. The Men's league will have their first games on Wednesday, March 30, and the coed teams will face off on the field for the first time on Friday, April 1. Games are held at both Benicia Middle School and at the Benicia Community Park. Men's league has two brackets, one with 6 teams and one with 7. Similarly, the coed league also has two divisions that total 13 teams. Softball players are ready to play after the long winter hiatus, and the fresh smell of the newly mown outfield is calling their names! Everyone is invited to stop by and watch exciting, competition-friendly softball on a cool spring evening. – *Parks & Community Services*

**WHAT'S NEW AT THE O'ROURKE GALLERY?** Recollections is a gathering of work by Katrina Van Male and the late Bonnie Weidel. The exhibition runs **April 2 – May 8** at Benicia Public Library Marilyn Citron O'Rourke Gallery.

The Exhibition Reception will be on **Saturday, April 2**, 2:00-4:30 PM at the gallery. – *Library*





*Officer Jake Heinemeyer and his K9 partner Atos*

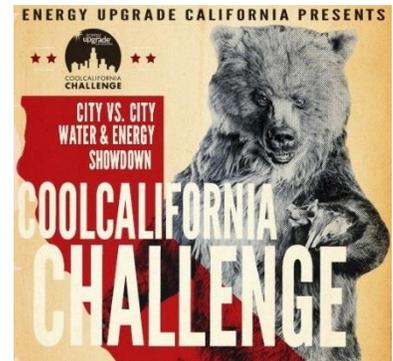
County Fairgrounds. Students from numerous elementary schools in Solano County enjoyed learning about agricultural production, which was designed to educate and entertain the kids, but as you can see Bak and Atos benefited the most from the fair. – *Police Department*

**FUN AT THE AG FAIR:** On Tuesday, March 15, the two Benicia Police K9 teams (Officer Keffer with K9 partner Bak along with Officer Heinemeyer with K9 partner Atos) enjoyed some extra loving from 3,000 very happy third graders at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Youth AG Day Fair hosted at the Solano



**JOIN THE CHALLENGE:** The Cool California Challenge ends **March 31**. We want to win the title of "Coolest City in California" and the biggest share of the \$150,000 prize. We are a city of 27,000+ and only 161 people have registered. By just signing up, you add 250 points to the City's total. Imagine if 500 people signed up, it would add 125,000 points to Benicia's total score!

To help entice you, Benicia Main Street will enter your name into a drawing to win \$25 Downtown Dollars. Five winners will be selected. Send an email to [info@beniciamainstreet.org](mailto:info@beniciamainstreet.org) to let us know you have joined the Cool California Challenge!



Join the challenge [here](#). You can get about a 1,000 points in 5 minutes by checking things that you have already done to save energy, so it's really easy! – *Community Development*



**LATEST VISITBENICIA.ORG BLOG:** For information on the *Bay Area Hot Spot for Spring Events*, check out the [latest blog](#) at VisitBenicia.org. You'll find info about a variety of fun events coming this spring and a few tips for planning your Great Day by the Bay in Benicia. – *Economic Development*



**SENIOR SPEAKER SERIES:** The next 2016 Senior Speaker Series event is **Thursday, April 21, 10:30-11:30 AM** at Benicia Public Library. Lois Requist, President of Benicia Literary Arts will speak on:

*Turning Memories into Stories*

This event is sponsored by the Carquinez Village Project and the Benicia Public Library. You are invited to attend the FREE Senior Speaker Series every third Thursday of the month. Email [CarquinezVillageProject@gmail.com](mailto:CarquinezVillageProject@gmail.com) or call 707.297.2470 for more information. – *Library*

**FLAGS AGAIN AT HALF-STAFF:** U.S. Flags are again at half-staff by Presidential Proclamation until sunset on **Saturday, March 26** honoring the victims of the attack in Brussels, Belgium. The Proclamation reads as follows:

The American people stand with the people of Brussels. We will do whatever it takes, working with nations and peoples around the world, to bring the perpetrators of these attacks to justice, and to go after terrorists who threaten our people.

As a mark of respect for the victims of the senseless acts of violence perpetrated on March 22, 2016, in Brussels, Belgium, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby order that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset, March 26, 2016. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth.

BARACK OBAMA  
– *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](#): 707.746.4200

[City Attorney](#): 707.746.4216

[Administrative Services](#) (Finance, Human Resources, I.T): 707.746.4200

[City Clerk](#): 707.746.4200

[Community Development](#): 707.746.4280

[Economic Development](#): 707.746.4202

[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