



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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April 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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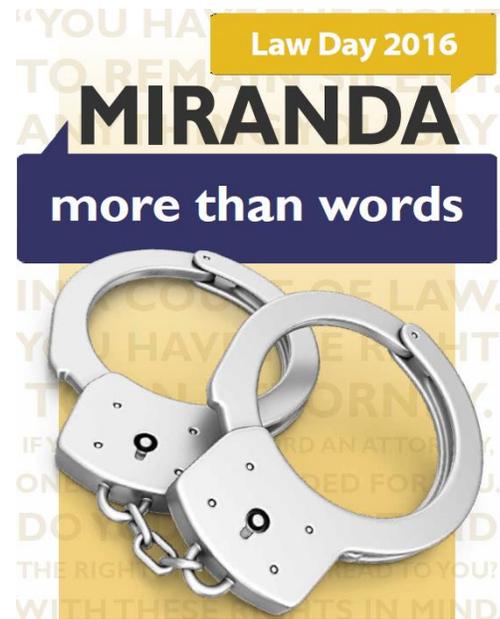
**MAY 1 IS LAW DAY!** What is Law Day? The American Bar Association President created Law Day in 1957 to celebrate the role of law in our society. It is held each year on **May 1** as a way to engage citizens of all ages in learning about the government and to celebrate the role of law in our society.



*Open Government Commissioner Larry Fullington is presented with the Law Day Proclamation by Mayor Patterson*

This year's theme is *Miranda: More than Words*. Many people have heard of the Miranda Rights and this year marks the 50th anniversary of the well-known *Miranda v. Arizona* U.S. Supreme Court case, but do you really know what the "right to remain silent" means? Do you know when you have this right?

The Miranda Warning was developed to ensure that the accused, in police custody, are aware of, and reminded of, their rights under the U.S. Constitution and that they know they can invoke them any time during interrogation. The Miranda Warning is a procedural safeguard to secure our privilege against self-incrimination. Check out the bulletin board outside the City Attorney's Office to learn more. – *City Attorney's Office*



**PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK:** The Benicia Police Department is participating in the countywide Prescription Drug Take-Back day on **Saturday, April 30** from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Benicia Police Department, 200 East L Street.

If you have expired or unused medication for humans or animals, simply remove them from the bottles and place in a zip-lock plastic bag, then drop it off anonymously at the Police Department. Make sure to remove all personal identification. Seal all liquids and creams with tape. No sharps accepted! –  
*Police Department*

**UPDATE FROM BHEP:** Through WattzOn and the Benicia Home Efficiency Program (BHEP), Benicia residents sign up for free home consultations and receive an evaluation of their home's energy and water use and are provided with tips and recommendations to help lower their bills. More importantly, Benicia residents learn how they can conserve even more during this severe drought.

WattzOn reaches out to students at Benicia High School to train them as BHEP student interns. One student intern, Raisa Boyd, wanted to share her story and involvement with BHEP to help inform residents about the impact high school students have on the program:

*“Being in the ECH2O academy at Benicia High School I am presented with several internship opportunities, especially ones that are environmentally focused. There was not one quite like the internship with WattzOn and the Benicia Home Efficiency Program. What was so appealing about the internship was that as a student I have the opportunity to teach residents about simple habit changes and home upgrades that will help them save at home, and how their savings contribute to a larger, community-wide effort to conserve our resources. What I’m able to teach residents can be incorporated into their everyday routines, whereas other conservation efforts are more labor intensive, like building rain collection systems and planting trees, that most residents don’t have the time to do.*

*Knowledge must be gained and given. Like the old saying goes, give a man a fish, he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish, he eats for a lifetime. In this case, teach people how to conserve water and save energy, create a new lifetime of clean energy and water for future generations. With this in mind, I needed to learn how to educate people and the internship with BHEP would help me with that.*

*After going through the job application process of submitting a resume and cover letter, I attended a two-day training session. The training session was presented by my mentor and now program manager Staci Givens. She delivered fun, interactive and informative lessons on how to educate people on water and energy conservation and engage the community. The first day of training was a simple class presentation, where all the interns learned the*

*basic facts about the program and the tasks that we would conduct during consultations, such as how to read water meters. The second day was a mock in-home consultation so we could put what we learned to the test. We interviewed the resident about their habits around the house and then checked the efficiency of their appliances. We learned how to measure the water flow rates in all fixtures, such as toilets and faucets.*

*The longest and most exhausting part of the mock consultation was measuring the water consumption of the resident's sprinklers. This required a lot of back and forth from the irrigation controller to the water meter, over and over. This seems simple enough, but trust me, it is a lot of work! At the end of the training, we were able to give a detailed and helpful report to the resident. We provided the resident with information on the rebates they were eligible for, the inefficiencies in their home and what habit changes they could make to help save water, energy, and the environment.*

*Besides assisting with the in-home consultations, one of the main things we do as interns is conduct door to door outreach. This is how we get a lot of residents to sign up for the free consultations. When we go door to door, we do the classic soliciting approach, leaving flyers and talking to people – daunting, but it works! This way we can spread the word about BHEP to a lot of people!*

*Benicia offers a wide variety of wonderful community events – Farmers Markets, Benicia Makerspace Mini Maker Faire, 4th of July Festival and Benicia Public Library Book Sales. During community events we set up booths to talk to people, give away prizes, as well as spread the word about the program. Residents can also sign up for an in-home consultation here, too!*

*Interning with such an amazing program as BHEP has given me so many learning experiences that I would have never gotten from another internship. From soft skills to hard skills, we learn marketing techniques and are given the freedom to enhance our own outreach experiences. We gain real world skills, such as working and organizing*



*in a group outside of a classroom environment, that are helpful for future jobs. Because of WattzOn and BHEP, I not only have an amazing resume builder, but I am gaining knowledge in a field I personally love. To be really involved in a program like this you have to be passionate about the environment and your community. Being a student it is often hard to find ways to make such an impact, but BHEP not only helps residents, but it gives students the opportunity to partake in a community changing revolution!”*

To sign up for your free in-home consultation, call 800.314.5997 or visit [www.BeniciaHomeEfficiency.org](http://www.BeniciaHomeEfficiency.org). – Community Development.

**SPRING INTO GIVING:** You are invited to give and get back during the week-long Spring into Giving promotion, which benefits the Benicia Police Department's Family Resource Center (FRC). Drop off suggested donation items to Benicia Main Street between **Saturday, April 30 - Saturday, May 7**, and you will receive a discount card valid with participating downtown merchants during that week (some restrictions may apply).

Established in 2004, FRC is a community-based center offering "collaborative assistance for families; keeping children safe and families strong." As a local resource center, FRC offers information, referrals, parent education, family support and other services.

While the Benicia PD applies for various grants to offset operating expenses, this does not cover the cost of stocking a community closet of emergency family products. For the past two years, Soroptimist International of Benicia has brought attention to this need by bringing in donations as a part of their mission to improve the lives of women and girls. Now Benicia Main Street aims to bring awareness to the cause through their promotion *Spring into Giving*.

Participating businesses: Adobe Thrift Shop, A Jewel in the Sky, All About Beauty Day Spa, Alvord's Treasure Chest, Angel Heart 4 You, Aroma Indian Cuisine, Artcentric, Art & Things, Benicia Bead, Benicia Main Street, Bookshop Benicia, Camellia Tea Room, Charlie's Attic, Christina S, Dianna's Bakery & Cafe, Elisa's Closet, First Impressions, First St. Café, Golden Horse Shoe, Heritage Pantry, Lindsay Art Glass, Mimi & Co., Once Upon A Canvas, PS Hair Studios, Pups N Purrrz, Roberto's Fine Jewelry, Rosanna's Bakery, The Steffen Collection, Timeless Memories, Tina Marie's, Union Hotel Bar & Restaurant, Venticellos, and Wellness Wisdom.

Suggested donation items include diapers, baby wipes, formula, baby shampoo and soap, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, bath towels, wash clothes, socks, hair brushes, toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo and conditioner, and body wash. Donations should be dropped off to Benicia Main Street at the foot of First Street during business hours to receive the shopping/dining discount card. For more info, visit [www.BeniciaMainStreet.org](http://www.BeniciaMainStreet.org) or call 707.745.9791. Donations are also accepted at FRC, located at 150 East K Street, however, call ahead for an appointment to drop off items. For more information on FRC, call or email Blanche Hilman at 707.746.4352 or [bhilman@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:bhilman@ci.benicia.ca.us). – *Police Department*



**POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:** The Benicia Police Department monthly report for March 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*

**COMPLIMENTARY SHUTTLE FOR OPEN STUDIOS:** Join Arts Benicia all around town at the [Benicia Artists Open Studios](#) event and let SolTrans do the driving on **Saturday and Sunday, May 7 & 8**, from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Thanks go to SolTrans for providing the FREE shuttle that runs between First Street and the Benicia Arsenal studios. [Click here](#) for the schedule. Seeing the art of Benicia’s amazing artists doesn’t get any easier than this once a year opportunity! – *Economic Development*



**FITNESS FUN:** Members of Krystle Dilley’s Fit for Life classes, through Parks & Community Services, are constantly being told by Krystle to keep exercising so that they can get their bodies “bikini ready” for summer. So her classmates decided to surprise her. They organized purchasing fun t-shirts of assorted bikinis then arrived at class and unveiled their new bodies! Laughter and pictures filled the hallways at the Community Center!

They say laughter is one of the best forms of medicine and this group had all of staff laughing. They say their fitness participants inspire them every day with their dedication and spirit.



Interested in joining the fun? Please stop by the Community Center at 370 East L Street for information on class times and prices or check the Activity Guide on-line at the city webpage: [www.ci.benicia.ca.us](http://www.ci.benicia.ca.us). – *Parks & Community Services*

## PERSONNEL NEWS:

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

[Senior Planner or Associate Planner](#), full-time, closing 05/02/16

[Police Officer - Lateral \(currently working\)](#), full-time, open continuously

[Reserve Officer \(Volunteer\)](#), part-time, 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*

**New Police Officers:** Chief Erik Upson is pleased to welcome two new officers to Benicia Police Department. Their first day on the job will be May 9.



Officer Jerry Ribeira is a lateral transfer from the Oakland Housing Authority Police Department and the Alameda County Narcotics Task Force. His twelve years' experience includes Acting Sergeant and Team Leader positions, Defensive Tactics Instructor, Field Training Officer, Impact Weapons Instructor and Lifetime Fitness Instructor.

Jerry is married, has a small urban farm and is an avid crossfitter and strongman athlete.

Officer Stephanie Polizziani is a San Francisco native who spent six years living in Italy after college. Prior to her career in law enforcement, she was a counselor for severely emotionally disturbed adolescents and a victim's advocate for rape crisis centers in Marin and Contra Costa Counties.



She is a lateral transfer from Berkeley Police Department. Her twelve years' experience began as a Community Services Officer at the jail for two years. Upon becoming an Officer, she worked in Patrol and Community Services in addition to experience as a certified gang expert, Intelligence Officer, Terrorism Liaison Officer, and Tactical Rifle Operator.

Stephanie is married to a Berkeley PD Officer. They have a daughter in college and a German Shepard named Sarge. She enjoys cooking, gardening and watching her Giants, 49ers, Italian soccer, and MMA. - *Police Department*

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** Members of Benicia Police Department acknowledged Chief Erik Upson on his one year anniversary with the Department. Lt. Scott Przekurat notes, “On April 20, Chief Erik Upson reached his one year anniversary with the Benicia Police Department. Through his vision and leadership, the Benicia Police Department has become one of the best police organizations in the world! Our organization and this community are very fortunate to have such a competent and caring leader. Chief Upson is a humble person and does not seek individualized recognition, but all of us at the police department would like to thank him and congratulate Chief Upson on his one year anniversary.”

Below are photos highlighting Chief Upson’s first year. – Police Department



Please join me in welcoming Jerry and Stephanie to the City of Benicia family and in congratulating Chief Upson on his anniversary. – *City Manager*

**NETWORK, NETWORK, NETWORK!** The City of Benicia Office of Economic Development encourages local business owners to attend the Solano Business Connections Expo and Seminar on **Wednesday, May 4, 4:30 - 7:00 PM** at the Specialty Events Center in Fairfield. Stop by the City of Benicia booth for information on doing business in Benicia.  
 – *Economic Development*



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



**FIRST NORTHERN BANK**



## 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:

































**KICK OFF THE FARMERS MARKET SEASON AT THE CITY'S BOOTH:** The 2016 Farmers Market Season started on Thursday, April 28. You are invited to start the market visit off right with a visit to the City of Benicia's information booth on your way to filling your basket with vine fresh fruits and vegetables. Yum!



*Open Government Commission Chair  
Carol Langford*

You can chat with City staff and commissioners, catch up on City news and current happenings and have your questions answered. Swing by for a Summer Parks Activity Guide (coming soon), water conservation giveaways, information on the next Film Festival, or grab a lollipop for the road.

Stopping by the City's booth at the Farmers Market is a great way to enhance the communication and collaboration between you and your City! – *City Attorney's Office*

**COMMUNITY MEET & GREET:** On the evening of April 12, Chief Upson and Benicia Police Department staff held their first Community Meet and Greet at Matthew Turner Elementary School. It was a great evening that allowed community members to informally talk with Chief Upson and other members of the Department. In addition, Chief Upson spoke on the low crime rate we enjoy in Benicia and introduced the most recently hired Benicia Police Officers.



Community members were able to visit several presentation stations that included Using Online Crime Mapping, Understanding the Use of Force, Neighborhood Watch Programs, and information on the Department's new Facebook and Twitter accounts.

This was just one of many community events Chief Upson plans on hosting this year. Please join Chief Upson at the next Community Meet and Greet scheduled for **May 10** at Mary Farmar Elementary School. A brochure and announcement will be coming soon. – *Police Department*



**SPRING INTO THE SPRING FITNESS CONTEST WINNER:** Congratulations on a job well done to the 29 City of Benicia employees who participated in the February-March Fitness Contest. For 8 weeks these employees ran, walked, biked, rowed, swam and more to score more fitness points than their colleagues even through the wind and the rain of this El Niño year. With bonus points for making healthy meal choices, cutting out the sugar and even losing pounds, the struggle was REAL. Collectively the City employees traveled a distance of over 2,063 miles to meet their fitness goals!

Overall Winner: Fire Chief Jim Lydon (at right), clocking in at 12,535 points and 888.87 miles traveled! This means in just 60 days he may have biked all the way to Mexico!

Maintenance Supervisor Brent Everett came in a close second with 11,340 points notably completing 31 hours of Cross-fit classes.

The City Attorney, Heather Mc Laughlin, came in third with 9,825 points with Michelle Foley from the Police Department hot on her tail with 9,775 points. A special shout out goes to Heather Mc Laughlin for her training and completion of the Half Marathon at the Benicia Education Foundation Run for Education!



Steve Schueler, from the Parks Department, finished at the top of Tier 2 with 5,250 points exceeding 10,000 steps for 50 out of the 60 days and Dorothy Dickson-Dodds of the Community Development Department led tier 3 with 1,347 points finishing strong with bonus points for healthy eating.

A new competition has just begun. To join, contact Marilyn Cech at [mcech@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:mcech@ci.benicia.ca.us). – *City Attorney's Office*

**FREE COMIC BOOK DAY:** Benicia Public Library invites kids and teens to celebrate Free Comic Book Day on **Saturday, May 7** from 1:00 – 3:00 PM at the Library, 150 East L Street.



- Pick out your favorite comics or get one you've never seen before for FREE!
- Or participate in some comic book art activities!

Have fun with some reconstructive comic crafting, using old, worn-out comics and turning them into something new! Check out [www.pinterest.com/TeenZoneBenicia/](http://www.pinterest.com/TeenZoneBenicia/) for ideas. – *Library*



**SENIOR SPEAKER SERIES:** The next 2016 Senior Speaker Series event is **Thursday, May 19, 10:30-11:30 AM** at Benicia Public Library. Presented by Judie Donaldson, former Values Clarification Instructor, the topic will be:

*Values – Your Most Important Legacy*

Followed on **Thursday, June 16** by speaker Judith L. Carlisle, Esq., Favaro, Labezzo, Gill, Caretti & Heppell, P.C., the topic will be:

*The Paper Chase!  
Which documents to keep, which ones to throw away*

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

**SPRING TIME IN TINY TOTS:** The pre-school Tiny Tots programs loves to celebrate all the holidays. The children, teachers, parents and staff enjoyed this year's Easter Egg Hunt at the Benicia Community Center. The Easter Bunny enjoyed the beautiful weather, hiding eggs outside at the Community Center for the students to find. Students made cute bunny ears to wear and parents assisted with finding all the treasures.

[Tiny Tots Pre-School](#) is taking registration for the fall 16/17 school year now. Please stop by the Community Center at 370 East L Street for more information. – *Parks & Community Services*



**FREE G.E.D. CLASSES:** Benicia Public Library has a free G.E.D. class. To register or for more information go to [www.benicialibrary.org/literacy](http://www.benicialibrary.org/literacy) or call 707.746.4341. You can also visit the Adult Literacy Office at the Benicia Public Library, 150 East L Street, Monday - Thursday from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM. - Library



**BENICIA SENIOR CENTER UPDATE:** On April 20, the Benicia Senior Center hosted a “Songs & Sandwiches” event. Over 70 people attending enjoy a wonderful live performance by Benicia’s own Buddy Nash. Buddy played the piano and sang all the classics and had the audience singing and clapping along. There was a special performance by the Parks & Community Services’ Senior Tap Class taught by Jo Nash

(Buddy’s wife). The tap class students performed for a live audience for the first time and did a great job. Special thanks to Lindsay Dion, Recreation Supervisor, for planning and organizing these special events.

The songs and sandwiches events are always very popular. For \$5.00, seniors receive a delicious lunch from Raley’s Deli (sandwich, salad, fruit, chips & cookie) served by the Parks & Community Services staff and get to listen to fabulous performers from Benicia.

For information on future events or if you know of a local performer who would like to share their talents with the Benicia Senior Center please contact Lindsay Dion at [ldion@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:ldion@ci.benicia.ca.us) or 707-746-4771. – *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](mailto:edev@ci.benicia.ca.us): 707.746.4200

[City Attorney](mailto:edev@ci.benicia.ca.us): 707.746.4216

[Administrative Services](mailto:edev@ci.benicia.ca.us) (Finance, Human Resources, I.T): 707.746.4200

[City Clerk](mailto:edev@ci.benicia.ca.us): 707.746.4200

[Community Development](mailto:edev@ci.benicia.ca.us): 707.746.4280

[Economic Development](mailto:edev@ci.benicia.ca.us): 707.746.4202

[Fire Department](mailto:edev@ci.benicia.ca.us): 707.746.4275

[Library](mailto:edev@ci.benicia.ca.us): 707.746.4343

[Parks & Community Services](mailto:edev@ci.benicia.ca.us): 707.746.4285

[Police Department](mailto:edev@ci.benicia.ca.us): 707.746.4265

[Public Works](mailto:edev@ci.benicia.ca.us): 707.746.4240