

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

~~~

June 23, 2016

The City Manager's Report from City of Benicia Acting City Manager Anne Cardwell 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.

-----

**UPDATE ON INCREASE IN WATER AND SEWER RATES:** Benicia utility customers will soon be receiving a revised Notice of a Public Hearing to increase the water and sewer rates and add water meter replacement fees. The notice explains that, if adopted, the proposed water and sewer rates and fee increase will be phased in over the next five (5) years, beginning on utility bills September 1, 2016 and then each July 1st thereafter.

On or around April 11, 2016, customers received the original Notice regarding the proposed rate increase. After receiving feedback that the notice was confusing to customers, particularly in regards to how to calculate one's expected increase, the City Council directed staff to stop the prior noticing process and return with a new and improved notice. Some of the improvements to the new notice include more details on the financial position of each utility, additional information on the proposed meter replacement fee. The revised notice also provides the rate and fee tables as bimonthly, instead of monthly, since the City bills every other month.



The City Council received the improved notice on June 7, 2016 and directed staff to send the attached notice to Benicia property owners and utility customers. The public hearing date is set for **Tuesday, August 16** at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. If approved, adoption of the new water and sewer utility rates would go into effect on September 1, 2016.

While every effort has been made to make the revised notice more informative and user friendly, including step-by-step instructions for estimating your new bill, staff recognizes that you may still have questions regarding the rates. In an effort to make sure that you understand the proposed rates, City staff is providing the following options for customers:

- **Visit us during Drop in Hours at City Hall (Mondays from 6:00 – 7:00 PM or Fridays from 9:00 – 10:00 AM):** You may stop in and ask City staff to estimate your new bill, as well as ask any questions you may have.
- **Visit us at Farmers Market:** City staff will be present at the City booth on Thursday evenings on First Street to answer questions.
- **Use the Online Bill Calculator:** Visit [www.ci.benicia.ca.us](http://www.ci.benicia.ca.us) and click on [2016 Proposed Water & Sewer Rates](#) to access an online bill calculator that allows you to enter your residential water usage information and receive an estimate of your new bill amount.
- **Call the City's Finance Department:** Call 707.746.4225 anytime between 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM weekdays to receive assistance in estimating your new bill amount.

Finally, if you already submitted a protest under the prior 45-day noticing period, you do not need to resubmit. Those protests that provided the required information that have already been received will still be counted. However, after receiving the new notice, if you have reconsidered and wish to retract your protest, you may do so by contacting the City Clerk's Office at 707.746.4200. – *City Manager's Office*

**SUMMER OUTDOOR MOVIE FOR JUNE:** Movie Night Under the Stars is back, **Friday, June 24**, at dusk at the City Park Gazebo, First Street at Military West. Despicable Me's MINIONS (PG) is playing.

Free admission and free popcorn during the movie. Bring pillows, blankets, low-back chairs, then sit back and enjoy the entertainment. Food and beverages are welcome, so bring your picnic dinner. (Please clean up after the movie.) These are family events so please, no smoking, and no pets. Pets are not allowed in the park.  
– *Parks & Community Services*



**S**AFETY WARNING FOR TORCHLIGHT PARADE: It's that time again, time for our community to come together and enjoy the kick-off to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities, the Torchlight Parade. The parade takes place on July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 PM and runs from the bottom of First Street to the top.

Many people want to reserve their spot along the parade route but the City of Benicia has safety warnings to keep in mind:

- In the interest of safety - NO chairs, blankets, or other materials used to reserve space may be placed along the route for the Torchlight Parade prior to **9:00 AM, July 3.**
- Please do not block access to the sidewalk. As a courtesy to First Street merchants, it is very difficult to exit a vehicle from the passenger side when the sidewalk is blocked by chains or ropes attached to street lights and sign poles by people saving their spot.
- Do allow enough room for a car door to open on the passenger side of the parked car.
- Out of respect and pride in the beauty of downtown Benicia, please do not mark the recently cleaned sidewalks of First Street with tape or any semi-permanent substance.

- *Parks & Community Services*



**E**VENTS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS: Benicia Public Library has arranged for special programs for Middle School students, ages 11-14 (grades, 5-7 only), with subject content appropriate to that age level. Programs are on Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM.



**June 29:** Upcycle a T-shirt

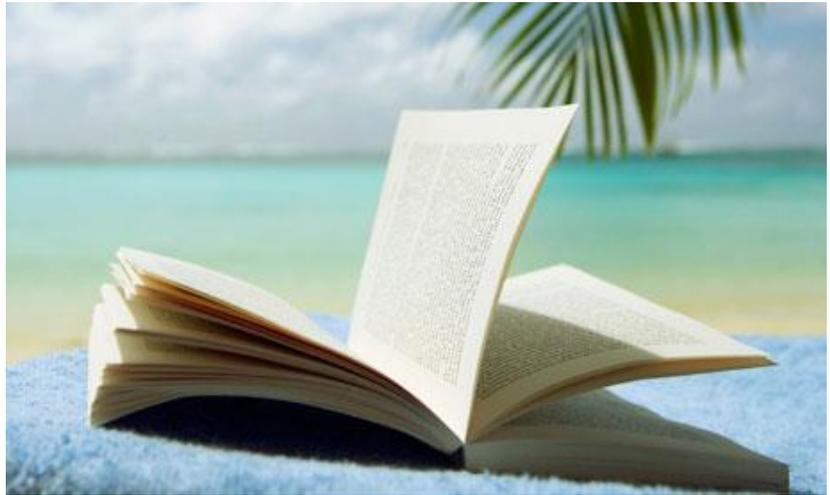
**July 6:** Take Things Apart with Benicia Makerspace

**July 13:** Make a Terrarium

-*Library*

## GREAT SUMMER READS:

Looking for something new and different to read this summer? Ron Shoop, a Random House representative, will be at the Benicia Public Library on **Thursday, June 30** at 7:00 PM highlighting new summer reads. All attendees have a chance at a free bag of books. [Bookshop Benicia](#) will be on hand with books to purchase. – *Library*



## PERSONNEL NEWS:

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

[Administrative Clerk](#), part-time, closing 06/29/16

[Paramedic Firefighter](#), full-time, closing 06/30/16

[Recreation Leader II - Adult Softball Scorekeeper](#), part-time, closing 07/05/16

[Department Aide](#), part-time, closing 07/12/16

[Police Officer - Academy/Non-Lateral](#), part-time, closing 07/13/16

[Associate Planner](#), full-time, closing 07/28/16

[Senior Planner](#), full-time, closing 07/28/16

[Recreation Leader – Pool Cashier](#), part-time, open until filled

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

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

**FREE SUMMER FUN:** The Benicia Public Library offers free museum passes – a fun thing to do to beat the summer heat! You can explore the wide variety of Bay Area museums available with your library card. Discover and Go is found online at <https://benicialibrary.discoverandgo.net/> - *Library*







**HISTORIC DAY AT BPD:** For the first time in Benicia Police Department's history, a patrol team was staffed entirely of woman police officers. Like all the officers, the female officers play a vital role in providing public safety to our great community.

Pictured (l-r) are Officers Jessica Woods, Stephanie Polizziani, Angela Maniego and Michelle King. – *Police Department*

**HARRY POTTER EVENTS FOR TEENS:**

The 8th Harry Potter story comes out as a play this summer on July 31, Harry Potter's birthday! (Harry Potter and the Cursed Child)

To celebrate, Benicia Public Library will have Harry Potter events:

**June 1- August 31:**

Harry Potter Summer Reading Program

**July 6 - August 12:**

Harry Potter Horcrux Hunt

**July 11** at 6:00 PM:

Teen Book Club discussing Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

**July 15** at 5:00 PM:

Harry Potter Movie Night and Trivia (Teens Only)

**August 12** at 7:00 PM:

Harry Potter Playreading

**HORCRUX HUNT AND OTHER  
HARRY POTTER EVENTS**

More info is available at [BeniciaPublicLibrary.org](http://BeniciaPublicLibrary.org) or 707.746.4343. – *Library*

**YOUTH COMMISSION:** Applications for the 2016-2017 Benicia Youth Commission are due by **Friday, August 19**. Applications are available at the Benicia Community Center, 370 East L Street or contact Lindsay Dion at 707.746.4771 or [ldion@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:ldion@ci.benicia.ca.us).



The Benicia Youth Commission (BYC) serves as an advisory body to the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Commission and other groups on matters relating to youth in Benicia. BYC meets twice a month September – May and is run by a chair and elected board. All Benicia Middle and High School students are invited to apply. This is a great opportunity to give back to community, learn valuable leadership tools and can be used on college applications for community involvement. – *Parks & Community Services*



**SENIOR SPEAKER SERIES:** The Senior Speaker Series is sponsored by the [Carquinez Village Project](#) and the [Benicia Public Library](#) and is on the third Thursday of the month, 10:30-11:15AM at the Benicia Public Library. The next event is on **Thursday, July 21:**

*Do you have an Advanced Directive and Advanced Plan?*

On **Thursday, August 18:**

*Things you may not know about Medicare benefits*

On **Thursday, September 15:**

*Creating a world without Alzheimer's Disease*

On **Thursday, October 20:**

*Do you know what Solano County has to offer seniors?  
You might be surprised...!*

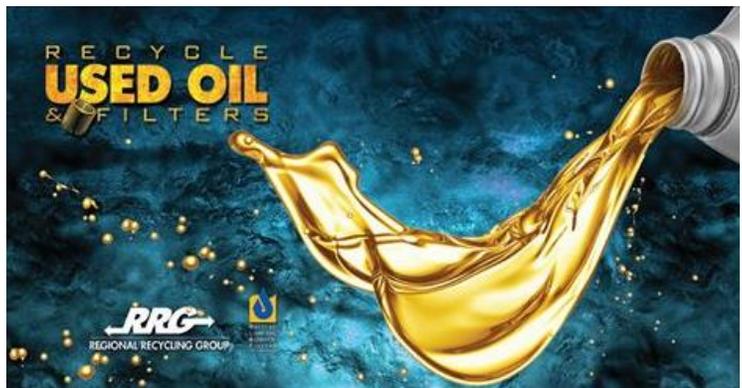
On **Thursday, November 17:**

*Strategies for Smart Estate Planning*

The Carquinez Village Project also sponsors Movies for Seniors is on the first Thursday of each month at 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM in the Dona Benicia room at the Benicia Public Library. Their license does not allow them to provide titles in advance, so come join them for a morning of unanticipated delight!

Email [CarquinezVillageProject@gmail.com](mailto:CarquinezVillageProject@gmail.com) or call 707.297.2470 for more information. –  
*Library*

**RECYCLE USED OIL:** Benicia Public Works Department reminds you that the 3,000 mile rule is a myth. Find the manufacturer recommended oil change interval for your car and see how easy it is to recycle used motor oil and filters. Never pour oil down the drain or gutters. Find out more at [RecycleUsedOil.com](http://RecycleUsedOil.com). – *Public Works*



**ADVENTURES DAY CAMP TRAINING:** Senior staff for the City's Adventures Day Camp attended a leadership workshop in Santa Rosa on Saturday, June 4. Recreation Departments from all of over the Bay Area came together to learn some of the best practices and hottest trends for summer recreation programs. Staff learned a lot and had an opportunity to meet and talk to other senior staff in the area.



Training continued at with staff training at the Benicia Community Center on Sunday, June 5. Staff participated in team building and safety exercises to prepare them to be successful Recreation Leaders. This summer 40 part-time staff were welcomed. Our staff is dedicated to offering a caring, safe and fun environment for our campers.



The Adventures Day Camp program is a 10-week program, with over 150 children that range from 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, attending from 7:00 AM - 6:30 PM. Staff plans a wide variety of games, sports, arts, crafts, cooking and science activities each week. Campers have the opportunity to go swimming at the James Lemos Swim

Center daily and enjoy playing at the City Park on First Street. Parents have the option of signing up for 5 field trips throughout the summer. This week ADC will be taking a trip to the Exploratorium and the Pier 39 Aquarium in San Francisco. – *Parks & Community Services*



**FIRST AID TRAINING FOR LIFEGUARDS:** In a collaboration between the Fire Department and the Parks & Community Services Department, lifeguards attended a First Aid training at Station 11 last week. Fire Division Chief KC Smith led the training with a focus on multiple victim incident response, triage and bandaging. This was a great opportunity for the lifeguards to build on their current training and continue their relationship with the Benicia Fire Department. Thanks to KC Smith for offering this engaging and valuable training. – *Parks & Community Services*



**NEW EXHIBITION AT THE LIBRARY:** *Moments – Exploring Human Experiences*, paintings, sculpture, and poems by Nikki Basch-Davis is the latest exhibition at the Marilyn Citron O'Rourke Gallery at the Benicia Public Library. The exhibition runs through July 27. You are invited to meet the artist at the reception on **Saturday, July 2**, 3:00 - 5:00 PM in the gallery, and attend the poetry reading on **Saturday, July 23**, 3:00 – 5:00 PM. – *Library*



**TAILS ‘N TALES:** Carol and Honey are back! Benicia Public Library invites you to come read to Honey on Wednesdays at 2:30 PM through **August 17**. Sign up 15 minutes prior. – *Library*

**LEGO PLAY:** Benicia Public Library invites children, ages 5-12, to join them to create with LEGOs this summer on Wednesdays, 4:00-5:00 PM, through **August 17**. More info at Benicia Public Library.org or 707.746.4343. - *Library*



~ ~ ~

## CONTACT INFORMATION

The City Manager's Report from City of Benicia Acting City Manager Anne Cardwell 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