



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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July 12, 2016

The City Manager's Report from City of Benicia Interim City Manager Steve Salomon 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 Information at the end of this report.

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**MESSAGE FROM INTERIM CITY MANAGER STEVE SALOMON:** On July 5, the Benicia City Council approved a contract for the services of an Interim City Manager to manage the day-to-day operation of the city government until a permanent City Manager is hired early in 2017.

I am not unfamiliar with the City of Benicia organization and its operation. I served as the Interim Public Works Director for six months in 2014 while the search was conducted for that position, ultimately leading to the hiring of our current director, Graham Wadsworth. During that time, I got to know the City Council, and Public Works and City Management staff and couldn't be more pleased to return here and work with the City Council and staff as they search for a new leader.

I have over 40 years' experience in local government including time with the Bay Area cities of Concord, Albany, Brentwood, and Hercules.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the incredible accomplishment of residents, businesses and the City organization in water conservation. When I left the City in September 2014, it was at the beginning of the water conservation effort. It was unknown what the results would be. Benicia has conserved more than 50% when the statewide goal was 20%! That result is a tribute to the commitment and dedication of the community.

I look forward to meeting members of the community and communicating with you through this newsletter, social media, and in person. Should you have any questions of me, please don't hesitate to reach out at [ssalomon@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:ssalomon@ci.benicia.ca.us) or 707.746.4210. – *City Manager*

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The Solano County Fair returns **Wednesday, July 27 - Sunday, July 31**. Each Solano County city is again given a booth in the Exposition Hall at the Fairgrounds in Vallejo.

Benicia Main Street and Benicia Historical Museum have volunteered to staff two of the five days. However, because the Benicia Waterfront Festival happens the same weekend, service clubs and people who would normally volunteer are already committed. We are looking for people to volunteer for two-hour shifts on Friday between 3:00 – 11:00 PM, Saturday between 12:00 – 11:00 PM, and Sunday between 12:00 – 10:00 PM. Volunteers will receive information to help them speak with visitors to the booth along with informational material to hand out. As a bonus, volunteers will receive FREE admission and FREE parking!



More information on the Solano County Fair including the entertainment schedule, events schedule, and pricing, go to [www.scfair.com/scfair2.html](http://www.scfair.com/scfair2.html). To volunteer, please contact Teri Davena at [tdavena@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:tdavena@ci.benicia.ca.us) or 707.746.4202. – *Economic Development*

**FOOT OF FIRST STREET UPGRADES:** The large tree in the turnaround at the foot of First Street was removed this week. You might recall that this tree is lit for the holidays at the Open House on the first Friday in December. The new tree will arrive in plenty of time (on July 21). It is a Carolina Sapphire Cypress and is approximately 20 ft. tall. The bollards also will be removed and replaced, the irrigation upgraded to drip, and a California friendly landscape added.

In May, the City Council approved the construction contract with HM Construction to



remove and replace the railing along the Promenade at the foot of First Street. The demolition of the old railing started the week of July 4. The new stainless steel railing will be built and installed over the next 120 calendar days and is funded through Measure C.

For questions or information on these projects, please contact Rick Knight, Parks & Community Services Superintendent, at [rknight@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:rknight@ci.benicia.ca.us) or 707.746.4285. – *Parks & Community Services*

## PERSONNEL NEWS:

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

[Senior Account Clerk](#), full-time, closing 07/18/16

[Seasonal Park Worker](#), part-time, first review of applications 07/26/16

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

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

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

[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*

**New to BPD:** Chief Erik Upson is pleased to welcome Kristin Kamm as the newest member of the Benicia Police Department's Family Resource Center.

A Vallejo native, Kristin has lived in Japan and now in Benicia. She and her husband have two children, cats, a dog, chickens, and a fish! She enjoys jogging, bowling, coaching her kids' soccer teams, and being a Girl Scout Leader.

Kristin, a secretary by trade, brings a lot of experience working with kids and families in many capacities. She says this is her dream career and she is excited to work with the Family Resource Center and the City of Benicia. – *Police Department*



**A Fond Farewell:** After three years of working in the City Attorney's Office as the Administrative Clerk, Marilyn Cech says farewell to City Hall as she gets ready to attend law school at University of California, Hastings School of Law. A born Benician and originally a psych major at UC Berkeley, the experience of working in city government and especially working closely with the City Attorney has inspired her to take on this new adventure.

Marilyn has been the go-to person for the staff's insurance and contract questions. Someone new will have to pick up the reigns and organize the next city employee fitness contests and coordinate the City's Farmers Market booth.

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July 12, 2016

Page 3

“Working for the City has been fun. I will miss the whole Benicia City family and our various shenanigans. Luckily, when I am gone, the title for the Best Halloween Costume will be up for grabs again this year.” – *City Attorney*



Please join me in welcoming Kristin to the City of Benicia family and wishing Marilyn the very best in her future endeavors. – *City Manager*



**RESIDENTIAL SOLAR REBATE PROGRAM:** The City of Benicia has launched the second phase of its Residential Solar Incentive Program. Benicia residents that install a 1.5 kilowatt AC or larger solar system (PV not thermal) are eligible for a \$0.30 per watt rebate, up to \$1,000. In addition to this rebate, the City is partnering with solar installers that will offer a matching rebate of \$0.30 per watt up to an additional \$1,000. For more information, [click here](#) for program guidelines.

If you are interested in applying for a rebate, please download an [application](#) on the City's website or pick one up at the Community Development Department (250 East L Street, lower level). Completed applications can be delivered to the Community Development Department or emailed to [tolson@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:tolson@ci.benicia.ca.us).



If you are a solar contractor interested in partnering with the City to offer these discounts and promote the continued growth of solar in Benicia, please email [tolson@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:tolson@ci.benicia.ca.us) for more information.

The first phase of this program resulted in 34 Benicia homes installing solar systems, with an estimated savings of 1,200 metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e) over the life of the system. This helps the City meet its greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals and helps residents reduce their energy bills. Additional information on the program is available on the [City's website](#). – *Community Development*

**BACKPACK DRIVE:** The Benicia Police Department's Family Resource Center (FRC) is holding its annual Backpack Drive and needs your support! Last year the FRC partnered with the Benicia Mom's Club and with many generous donations from Benicia residents and City staff, they were able to provide over 30 back packs to Benicia students- each valued at approximately \$50! That is a tremendous savings for a family, especially if they have several school-aged children!

The beginning of the school year is an exciting time for students, but the costs of enrolling a child in school can be daunting! Please help the FRC to ease this burden by donating school supplies and providing relief to families who really, truly need it.

To donate, please contact FRC worker Corby Selzer at 707.746.4363 or [cselzer@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:cselzer@ci.benicia.ca.us) to coordinate supply pick up/drop off. The Benicia Family Resource Center is located at 150 East K Street across from the tennis courts. Please bring your donations in by **Wednesday, August 3** so that they will have enough time to stuff the backpacks and distribute them in mid-August, which is when school registration begins.



Some ideas to make donating even more fun:

- Make it a fun outing with your own children; let them pick out items to donate. Helping others is FUN!
- Add some supplies to your personal amazon order (need another excuse to use your amazon prime?)
- Think back to your own school days and donate your favorite school items for someone else to enjoy (or donate items you WISH you had had as a student)

Some ideas for school supplies:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender neutral, durable backpacks suitable for older students (grades 6th-12th)</li> <li>• Wide rule or college rule paper (loose-leaf)</li> <li>• Colored pencils</li> <li>• Single subject/perforated spiral bound notebooks</li> <li>• Binders</li> <li>• Folders (pocketed)</li> <li>• Erasers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pencils (no 2, mechanical and colored pencils)</li> <li>• Pencil sharpeners</li> <li>• Pens (black, blue, red ink)</li> <li>• Blunt ended scissors</li> <li>• Markers (washable preferred by teachers)</li> <li>• Glue sticks</li> <li>• Crayons</li> <li>• Basic calculators</li> <li>• Rulers</li> <li>• Subject dividers (for binders)</li> </ul> |
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- *Police Department*

**CALL FOR ARTISTS:** The Marilyn Citron O'Rourke Art Gallery at the Benicia Public Library invites artists to submit a proposal to exhibit in 2017. The gallery showcases the work of local and regional artists. Exhibits appear for a period of 4–6 weeks. Artists are responsible for logistics and for installation and removal of the exhibits.



If you would like to receive an application and guidelines, please send a legal-sized self-addressed stamped envelope to the following address, or visit the library's website: [www.BeniciaLibrary.org](http://www.BeniciaLibrary.org). Applications are due by **Friday, August 26.** – *Library*

**JOINT TRAINING:** On June 24, City of Benicia Lifeguards and Benicia Firefighters participated in a simulated multi-victim exercise at the James Lemos Pool. The training focused on triage and scene management involving multiple simulated casualties. This was a great opportunity to test the skills learned in classroom exercises.

We are proud to have such a wonderful group of dedicated lifeguards. Enjoy the pool this summer and be safe! – *Fire Department*



**TREE REMOVALS ON FIRST STREET:** The City of Benicia Parks & Community Services recently removed five trees from First Street, which have recently died or sustained significant and irreparable structural damage. Replacement trees will be planted this coming fall.

For more information on trees in Benicia, please contact Rick Knight at [rknight@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:rknight@ci.benicia.ca.us) or 707.746.4285. – *Parks & Community Services*



**CASH FOR GRASS IS BACK:** The very popular turf replacement rebate program resumed on July 1. Benicia residents are eligible to receive a \$1.50 per square foot rebate, up to \$1,500, for replacing thirsty grass with sustainable water-efficient landscaping that meets Bay-Friendly Landscape Guidelines, while funding lasts.

The City partners with Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) who administers the turf replacement program. This program has traditionally reimbursed a property owner \$1.00 per square foot, up to \$1,000 per project. Thanks to the Community Sustainability Commission (CSC) and City Council, the City was awarded a \$60,000 grant from the Valero/Good Neighbor Steering Committee funds to provide an additional incentive of \$0.50 per square foot for Benicia turf replacement projects. Customers will now receive a \$1.50 per square foot rebate (comprised of the customary \$1.00/sq ft plus the \$0.50/sq ft from the City grant) on a first come, first serve basis.



Since the program began in 2010, 264,520 sq ft of grass in Benicia has been replaced resulting in a total of \$324,386 in rebates issued to 260 Benicia residents. Due to the vast increase of participation in the program in 2015, funds ran out and the program was put on hold from September 19, 2015 to July 1, 2016. Interested residents have been put on a waiting list during this time. Residents on the waiting list will receive the rebate first if they have met the requirements of the program.

Interested residents can call SCWA to schedule a brief pre-inspection (707.455.1113 or email [solanocash4grass@scwa2.com](mailto:solanocash4grass@scwa2.com)).

"More than 50 percent of a household's water use occurs in the landscape. Of that, about 30 percent is lost to overwatering and evaporation," said Water Quality Technician David Wenslawski. "There are lots of ways to save water at home, but reducing water use outdoors can make the biggest difference of all."

Residents can learn more water saving tips and information about free services and rebates at [BeniciaSavesWater.org](http://BeniciaSavesWater.org) and [SolanoSavesWater.org](http://SolanoSavesWater.org). – *Public Works*



**FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:** The Benicia Fire Department monthly report for June 2016 is now available. It contains information about Emergency Operations, Prevention, Training, and Response Times. [Click here](#) to read more. – *Fire Department*

**H**OME GRAYWATER COLLECTION SYSTEMS: The City of Benicia Community Sustainability Commission is holding a discussion on the City’s Home Graywater Collection Systems:

**Monday, July 18**

6:00 PM

Commission Room, City Hall  
250 East L Street

**What is graywater?** Graywater is untreated household wastewater generated from hand washing, laundry and bathing. This wastewater can be diverted from the sewer to irrigate outdoor plants and landscape.

**Why is graywater beneficial?** Using graywater reduces your reliance on potable water for outdoor irrigation throughout the year.

**How graywater systems work?** Graywater systems directly reuse “wastewater” to irrigate your plants. All systems must be installed and maintained according to [Ch.16 of the California Plumbing Code](#).

**Clothes Washer System:** Laundry-to-landscape systems divert graywater from the washing machine to your garden without cutting into existing plumbing. No permit required for this system.

**Simple System (Less than 250 gallons a day):** These systems include reusing water from a bathroom sink or shower. Simple systems require permits from the Building Department and involve altering plumbing and can include surge tanks and pumps.

The CSC will discuss possible permit processing and fee changes, as well as discussing the potential for “How-to” workshops. For further information, please call the Community Development Department at 707.746.4230. – *Community Development*



~ CONTACT INFORMATION ~

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[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