



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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July 28, 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.

**MESSAGE FROM INTERIM CITY MANAGER STEVE SALOMON:** Have you ever wondered if we have a sharps disposal site here in Benicia? We do! It's located in front of Benicia Fire Departments Station #11 at 150 Military West and is available 24-hours per day. Sharps must be placed in a rigid, sealed container like a laundry detergent bottle, before being placed in the bin.



Unused medication should not be placed in this disposal bin. Benicia Police Department co-sponsors a [Prescription Drug Take Back Day](#). The next one is scheduled **Saturday, October 22**. Watch the [City Manager's Report](#) for more details. – *City Manager*



**SUMMER TIME POOL SAFETY:** Benicia Fire Department wants to remind residents to [Swim Safely This Summer](#) with this short video. – *Fire Department*

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IS COMING:** This year's 33rd Annual National Night Out is **Tuesday, August 2** from 6:00-8:30 PM. Neighborhoods across the country participate in this community-building event that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer.



This year, eleven Benicia Neighborhood Watch groups will be hosting block parties with pot lucks, BBQ's, and ice cream socials. The Police Department coordinates the City caravans, which will include the Mayor, Councilmembers and Fire Department personnel that will visit with each of the neighborhood block parties. It's a great opportunity for the Police Department and the City of Benicia to thank these neighborhoods for their active partnership in the Neighborhood Watch Program.



*National Night Out 2016 at (l-r) Heather Court and 400 blk East K Street*

For more information on Neighborhood Watch or National Night Out, please contact [Volunteer Coordinator Patti Baron](#) at the Police Department by calling 707.746.4268.  
 – Police Department



disconnect to reconnect

**LATEST EXHIBIT:** What's new at the Marilyn Citron O'Rourke Gallery at the Benicia Public Library?

**“Unplugged”**  
 Acrylic & Oil  
 by Jeannette C. Baird

**August 3 — September 6**

Meet the artist at the Reception on **Sunday, August 7, 3:00-5:00 PM** in the Gallery. – *Library*

**SOLANO COUNTY FAIR:** The [Solano County Fair](#) is back this week (**July 27-31**) at Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo. Fair hours are 3:00-11:00 PM, Wednesday-Friday and 12:00 – 11:00 PM on Saturday & Sunday. Stop by the City of Benicia booth in the Exposition Hall, meet our wonderful volunteer made up of member of local organizations, citizens, and staff, then pick up information on living and visiting Benicia. – *Economic Development*



**BACK TO SCHOOL TRANSIT FAIR:** SolTrans invites you to learn about transit options for Benicia students at their [Back to School Transit Fair](#):

**Thursday, August 18**

1:30 – 3:00 PM

Benicia Library, Dona Benicia Room, 150 East L St, Benicia

&

4:00 – 7:00 PM

Benicia Farmers Market, bottom of First Street



Free Local Youth Day Pass for the first 100 students to visit the SolTrans booth. Enter their raffle to win one 31-Day bus pass valid on SolTrans local bus routes.\*

Learn which bus route serves your school, discover how to ride the bus and find the best fare for your bus routes.

\* One raffle entry per student. Winners will be notified via email or method indicated on the raffle ticket.  
– *City Manager's Office*

## PERSONNEL NEWS:

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

[Recreation Leader II](#), part-time, closing 07/29/16

[Seasonal Park Worker](#), part-time, opened until filled

[Assistant Planner](#), full-time, closing 08/01/16

[Associate Planner](#), full-time, closing 08/01/16

[Senior Planner](#), full-time, closing 08/01/16

[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 of Police Erik Upson is pleased to welcome the newest Police Officer, Gregri DeGrange, to the Benicia Police Department. Greg is a Vallejo native whose high school job was at Pizza Pirate! He graduated from St. Patrick's/St. Vincent's and attend Santa Rosa Jr. College.

Greg says he is first and foremost a father and husband. He and his wife of 10 years have two boy and a girl. The family has many hobbies, including baseball and outdoor activities.

"I became interested in law enforcement while working as a Real Estate Foreclosure Agent. When my oldest son was diagnosed with terminal cancer, the outpouring of love and kindness flooded our lives like the Russian River! People of all races and religious backgrounds came together and helped support our family. This left my family and myself in awe and humbled," said Greg.



Greg's first day on the department will be August 1. – *Police Department*

Please join me in welcoming Greg to the City of Benicia family. – *City Manager*

**LUNCH AT THE SENIOR CENTER:** On Wednesday, July 20, the Benicia Fire Department joined the Parks & Community Services Department in serving lunch at the Benicia Senior Center. They enjoyed meeting new friends and reassuring folks that if they need help, they are only a phone call away. Kinder's catered a great lunch of pulled pork sandwiches, BBQ beans, potato salad, and coleslaw, topped off with ice cream for dessert.



*Above: Engineer Netro and Paramedic/Firefighter McDonald and friends*



*B Shift with their new friends*



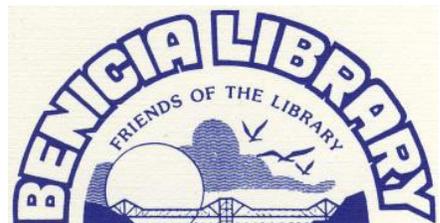
*Engineer Netro and Lindsay Dion, Recreation Supervisor, at right*

**WANT TO SUPPORT THE LIBRARY?** You can support the Library by becoming a Friend of the Benicia Public Library. Depending on your category, your dues can be as little as \$15 per year. What do the Friends do?

- Acquaint the public with library services and resources.
- Enrich the cultural opportunities available to the community by presenting speakers and programs.
- Raise funds to purchase special books and equipment.
- Sponsor a variety of children's activities.
- Receive advance notice of Friends' book sales, special programs and other activities.
- Receive a bimonthly newsletter.
- Enjoy the fellowship gained in meetings, book discussions and the sharing of ideas as well as the satisfaction of public service.

One way they raise funds is with a book sale held on the second Saturday of every month from 10:00AM – 4:00 PM in the basement of the Library. Each month there are over 50,000 volumes of donated books to choose from. On the Thursday evening before the Saturday book sale, there is a members only book sale from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Membership dues are accepted at the door.

Join [Friends of the Library](#) at the next Library book sale during Peddler's Fair weekend: **August 11, 12 and 13.** – *Library*



**BENICIA FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE:** Save the date for the Benicia Fire Department's Annual Open House:



**Saturday, October 15**

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Fire Station 11, 150 Military West

Event includes free food, goodie bags for the kids, fire engine show & tell, face painting, hands-on extinguisher demo, rope rescue demo, Coast Guard boat tours, and Fire Station tours.

Stay tuned for event details and look for information on the [Benicia Fire Department Facebook](#) page. – *Fire Department*

**NEW ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES IN BENICIA:** In December 2015, the Benicia City Council gave consent to approve the Contract and Funding from the BUSD (Benicia Unified School District) to supplement existing [Adult Literacy](#) services offered by the Benicia Public Library. As a result, free GED (General Educational Development) classes and the Burlington English Program (for English as a Second Language Learners) have been available at the Library since February 2016. Provided by a partnership with the Benicia Unified School District Adult Education Program and the Benicia Public Library, the programs were funded by a Solano Adult Education Block grant. Laptop computers and training for instructors were also provided.



During the spring months 15 students enrolled in GED with 255 class hours and 101 student visits logged. The comprehensive Burlington English program enhanced the ESL studies in which the 14 ESL class learners were already enrolled. With a one week break in June, classes have continued during the summer and will continue year-round.

GED classes are held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 PM and Friday mornings from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM at the Library. The program plans to add a Family Literacy class in the fall of 2016.

**CURRENT LIBRARY STATISTICS:**

- Total June visitors: 18,347
- Record Day of visitors on June 28 with 921 visitors
- June Internet sessions: 27,240
- Wireless Internet Sessions: 1,962
- June Library Adult Facebook views: 18,744
- June Library Teen Facebook views: 365

-Library

For information on these classes, an Adult School Orientation will be held on **Wednesday, August 10**, from 6:00 - 7:30 PM at the Benicia Public Library, 150 East L Street. Please call 707.746.4341 for more information. – *Library*

**YOUTH ACADEMY AT BPD:**  
This summer, 18 seventh- and eighth-graders joined the Benicia Youth Police Citizen Academy.

During the week-long program, the students built lasting relationships with police officers and the professional staff who work within the Benicia Police Department, learned their day-to-day responsibilities, as well as developed communications skills and team work. The program was developed to provide youth a better understanding of the daily duties of a Benicia police officer.



The graduates of Class #3 came up on their own motto, “Trust, Honor & Strength” after learning about our community and the police department. Congratulations graduates! – *Police Department*



**SATURDAY FAMILY STORY TIME:** Families with kids of all ages are invited to enjoy Family Story Time on Saturdays (except August 13) at 10:30 AM. The FREE event offers stories, songs, finger plays and more! Just drop in and enjoy the fun. – *Library*



**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*

**MEET OUR NEW POET LAUREATE:** Johanna Ely, Benicia's sixth [Poet Laureate](#), was confirmed by the Benicia City Council on Tuesday, July 5. You are invited to meet Johanna at the Poet's Picnic at Benicia City Park (First and Military) on **Sunday, August 14** from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Bring poetry, a blanket or chair, and food to share. Read her library poem below.



### Ode to the Library

Flickering sunlight...  
we always sit at  
the table by the window.  
We try so hard to converse quietly,  
my English  
his Spanish  
a beautiful wobbly bridge  
between us.  
The library is  
our haven  
a sanctuary  
and long ago,  
my first bird's nest.  
Me, the fledgling  
who almost tumbled  
and hit hard ground  
was nurtured by you  
and kept alive,  
fed the delicious pages of books.

The winter I wrote lesson plans  
by a warm fire in your quiet space  
and found comfort there,  
whispered arias of beginning,  
(my teacher dreams)  
settled myself in your open arms.  
Such gratitude for you,  
who welcomes those  
who crave so many things  
knowledge  
language  
literacy  
technology  
community  
and most importantly,  
O keeper of these sunlit books of poetry,  
a way to interpret the heart.  
©Johanna Ely  
- *Library*

**NEWS FROM SOLTRANS:** With commuting costs adding up and Bay Area traffic getting worse, smart commuters and travelers are always looking for ways to ease the hassle of getting around.



Solano County commuters have a particularly modern and convenient option in [SolTrans](#), a shining fleet of clean-energy buses that has connected Benicia, Vallejo and beyond for more than five years. SolTrans trips are affordable, and the eco-friendly bus rides all accommodate Clipper card users

while leaving the driving to someone else.

Soltrans recently posted [The Bay Area's Essential Guide to Commuting with SolTrans, Everything you need to know to begin your SolTrans journey today](#). Check it out for ideas on conveniently getting around the Bay Area. – *City Manager's Office*



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

~ CONTACT INFORMATION ~

The City Manager's Report from City of Benicia Interim City Manager Steve Salomon 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