

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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August 11, 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:** After more than 18 months of review by independent financial and engineering experts, and after extensive public dialogue, the City of Benicia is recommending water and sewer rate increases to ensure the health and safety of the community and to ensure Benicia's Water and Sewer Utilities remain financially solvent.

I encourage residents to review the information on the [2016 Proposed Water/Sewer Rates](#) page on the [City of Benicia](#) website. There you will find an explanation of the need for the increases, a residential [Water/Sewer Bill Calculator](#) and a link to [Related Documents](#) including those previously mailed to residential and business customers.

To voice your comments, please attend the Public Hearing before the City Council:

**Tuesday, August 16**  
7:00 PM  
Benicia City Council Chambers  
250 East L Street

For more information, check out the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page. You'll find information on how to submit a protest or, if after having read the information, you'd like to rescind a protest already submitted, information on how to rescind. Still have questions? Look for [Contact Information](#) on the webpage, too.

This is an important issue for Benicia residents and business owners. Please take the time to be informed. – *City Manager*

**EMPOWERING PARENTS:** Benicia Family Resource Center is sponsoring *The Parent Project Sr.* series for parents with strong-willed or out-of-control adolescents. Parents learn and practice specific prevention and intervention strategies for destructive behaviors such as - truancy, alcohol and other drug use, gangs and other criminal behavior, running away, violence and suicide.



Providing Parent-proven Methods:

- Preventing/stopping alcohol/drug/tobacco use
- Ending parent-child arguments FOREVER!
- Improving grades & school attendance
- Learning how to “out-will” a strong willed child!

**Tuesdays, September 13 – November 15, 2016 (10 weeks)**

6:00 – 9:00 PM

Benicia Family Resource Center  
150 East K Street

There is a \$20 material fee for the manual. To register, call 707.746.4352. Last day to register is **September 19**. Class is open to adults only. Sorry, no childcare will be provided.  
– *Police Department*

**TEMPORARY ROUTE 78 DELAYS:** SolTrans wants you to know that you may experience delays due to the temporary closure of lanes during express lane construction between the hours of 7:00 PM and 10:00 AM through August.

Lane construction will occur:

- Monday – Thursday, 8:00 PM - 5:00 AM
- Friday between 8:00 PM - 7:00 AM
- Saturday between 7:00 PM - 10:00 AM



For more information, call 707.648.4666 or visit SolTrans online at [www.SoltransRide.com](http://www.SoltransRide.com). The [Route 78](http://www.soltransride.com/routes) map and schedule is available [www.soltransride.com/routes](http://www.soltransride.com/routes). – *City Manager's Office*

**CORRECTED INFO ON GED CLASSES:** In the last [City Manager's Report](#), there was an article on Adult Literacy and GED Classes. Please note that GED classes are held on Friday mornings from 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon at the Benicia Public Library. In September, a weeknight GED class will be added, as well as a Family Literacy Class. Please watch for notices about an Adult School Open House to be held in August. Call 707.746.4341 for more information. - *Library*



## PERSONNEL NEWS:

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

[Recreation Leader II](#), part-time, closing 08/12/16

[Field Utilities and Streets Worker Apprentice](#), full-time, closing 09/01/16

[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 Public Works:** Public Works Director Grant Wadsworth is pleased to welcome new Operators at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and to the Public Works team. In the past few months, the WWTP has hired two new operators. The treatment plant has been less than fully staffed with a Supervisor and four operators since 2013.

Marica Smith has been a Wastewater Treatment Operator for three years. She was born and raised in the Bay Area. When not spending days off with family, she enjoys travelling, attending Golden State Warriors games, and photography.



Jose Perez is a Texas native who grew up in Placerville. He joined the US Army and after nearly a decade of being away from home, has returned to California to settle down. After spending some time in public works, he decided to pursue a career in wastewater treatment. He says he feels fortunate to have found his way to Benicia. Despite being so close to the big city, it has the small town charm that he enjoys. – *Public Works*

Please join me in welcoming Marica and Jose to the City of Benicia family. – *City Manager*

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



**SOLANO COMMUTER CHALLENGE IS BACK:** It's that time of year again and the City of Benicia has registered for the 10th annual Solano Commute Challenge. City employees have the opportunity to become Commute Champions. All they have to do to qualify to be a Commute Champion is to use a commute alternative 30 workdays between **August 1** and **October 31**. Each Commute Champion will receive \$50 in Commute Bucks (your choice of gas or grocery gift cards)! The employee who uses alternative transportation more than anyone else during the Commute Challenge will pocket \$100 in Commute Bucks (must have a minimum of 10 participants to qualify).



What are alternative transportation options?

*CARPOOL \* VANPOOL \* BUS \* TRAIN \* FERRY \* BICYCLE \* WALKING*

There are also weekly drawings to win gift cards from Starbucks, Peet's, Amazon, and many more. And, if the City of Benicia rallies the most employees in Solano County who meet the Commute Challenge, all those who participated in the challenge win a free catered lunch!

For more information and to sign up your business to participate, go to [www.commuterinfo.net/Content/10070/Solano Commute Challenge Employees.html](http://www.commuterinfo.net/Content/10070/Solano%20Commute%20Challenge%20Employees.html)  
- *Human Resources*

**ADULT VOLLEYBALL:** The summer season of adult volleyball is wrapping up on **Monday, August 15**. This summer a new format of play was introduced: Reverse Coed. Unlike regular coed, the teams play on a net that is set at women's height giving the ladies on the court all the power at the net. The matches have been full of great rallies and some powerful plays by our female players. The men had to adjust their game a bit and swing away from behind the 10 foot line...though this didn't stop them from hitting some hard driven balls! Congrats to all the teams for a great season and for embracing this fun new way to play the game. Playoffs and Championships will be exciting to watch and we wish all the teams that made it to playoffs the best of luck!



A new season of adult volleyball will open for registration on **Monday, August 22**. The fall season will return to regular coed play and is sure to fill, so don't hesitate in getting your team registered. – *Parks & Community Services*

**FREE COMPOST GIVEAWAY & REUSE ROUNDUP:** Mark your calendar for the 2<sup>nd</sup> free Compost Giveaway (last one of the year) hosted by Republic Services:

**Saturday, September 10**  
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Benicia Corporation Yard  
2400 East Second Street

Bring your own container and they will fill it, up to 30 gallons per household. Five gallon buckets work best. Giveaway is open to Benicia residents only. Please bring driver's license with address.

Looking to help yourself and those in need? A Reuse Roundup will be held at the same time/place. Clean out your closets and donate your kids' too small or unwanted school clothes. They need plenty of used clothing, housewares, bicycles, toys, games and costume jewelry. Sorry, NO mattresses, large furniture, electronics, stuffed animals, or overly-worn items.

Help others less fortunate. Donations will go to "Faith Food Fridays," a nonprofit serving the less fortunate of Solano County. – *City Manager's Office*



**BENICIA FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Benicia Film Festival will take place on Labor Day Weekend, **September 2-4**. All of the events will be held on



**FILM FESTIVAL**

First Street in downtown Benicia with international, national and local short films showing during the three-day event.

Friday night kicks off with the Gala at the Benicia Veterans' Memorial Hall, which will include music, films, appetizers and a no host bar.

Saturday and Sunday, the event will take place at the Majestic Theatre where 31 films will be shown throughout the weekend. There will also be filmmakers each day to talk about their films.

The Film Festival's the three major sponsors are Benicia Arts and Culture Commission, Downtown Benicia Alliance and Pedrotti Ace Hardware. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.beniciafilmfestival.com](http://www.beniciafilmfestival.com) or at the Benicia Public Library, 150 East L Street, and Benicia Main Street, 90 First Street. - *Library*

**NEW PROGRAMS COMING THE CITY GYM:** Benicia Parks and Community Services is excited to announce two new programs coming in September to the City Gym:

**Youth Volleyball:** After a successful youth volleyball camp, a 10-week instructional league will be offered to kids ages 7-14. This is a fun filled, after school program where all aspects of the game will be taught through drills and daily scrimmages. This is a great coed program for kids that are new to the sport, or those that want to improve their skills so they can play on their school's team. Including fundamental volleyball skills, the program will also focus on essential life lessons like teamwork and sportsmanship. Kids, ages 7-10 years, will participate from 4:00 – 5:00 PM and ages 11-14 will play from 5:00 – 6:00 PM every Tuesday starting **September 27**. (Note: No class on 11/8 and 11/22.) Program will run through December 13. The fee for residents is \$149 and non-residents is \$186. Don't miss this great chance to be a part of this brand new program! Registration is open now.



**Badminton:** Starting on **Wednesday, September 7**, the City Gym will be a hub of Family



Friendly FUN! Drop in badminton will be available from 6:30 – 9:00 PM for all ages. Grab your friends and family and drop by for a night of fun and friendly play. Have a racket? Bring it with you! No racket? No problem! Loaners will be available at the gym. Shuttlecocks will also be available for

use. Drop in fees for residents is \$3; non-residents are \$4. Youth (under 18) are \$1. Players under 18 must have a parent sign the waiver at check in. Players 18 and older will need to present ID to access the program. Correct change is greatly appreciated! All ages and abilities are welcome! – *Parks & Community Services*

**BUY ONE, GET ONE:** SolTrans is offering Buy One, Get One Free Solano Express 31-Day Passes through **June 30, 2017**, while they last. You are eligible to purchase if you:

- Live or work in Contra Costa County
- Are 18 years of age or older
- Would otherwise drive alone to/from an employment location if SolTrans Routes 78 or 80 were not available
- Agree to complete a brief questionnaire to determine the effectiveness of this promotion.



More information is available at [www.SoltransRide.com](http://www.SoltransRide.com). – *City Manager's Office*

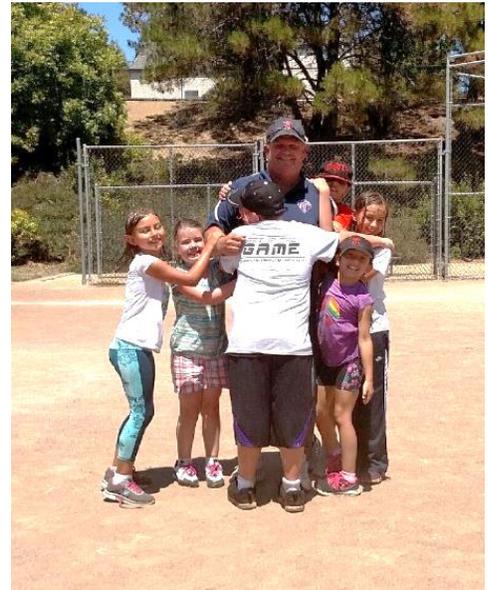
**HOLIDAY VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT:** The Holiday Volleyball Tournament will be on **Saturday, December 3**. Spend a full day at the City Gym playing in a Coed 4s tournament. First serve will take place at 9:00 AM and the tournament will last until about 5:00 PM (or whenever the finals are over). Tournament play will consist of round robin pool play, with top teams heading into a single elimination tournament bracket. Every player will be entered into raffle for individual prizes, and the prizes for champion team will be a \$100 gift certificate toward any 2017 volleyball league with City of Benicia. The 2nd place team will take home a \$50 gift certificate toward any 2017 volleyball league with Benicia. Registration is currently open and only the first 12 teams will claim a spot. The fees for resident teams is \$50; non-resident teams are \$62. – *Parks & Community Services*



**EXPLORER SCOUTS ATTEND ACADEMY:** Benicia Police Explorer Scouts Peters and Vargas represented the Benicia Police Department at the 3rd annual Solano County Explorer Academy. This intensive 36-hour program exposes young explorers to various duties that law enforcement officers face every day. Chief Erik Upson attended the recent graduation ceremony as one of the keynote speakers and praised the young men and women for their dedication to this honorable profession. Congratulations to our Explorers for their outstanding accomplishment. – *Police Department*



**YOUTH SPORTS CAMPS:** It's hard to believe that summer is almost over and kids are headed back to school. One thing we know for sure is that the last few months have been filled with tons of SUMMER FUN! The summer sports camps offered through Benicia Parks and Community Services were a hit! The camps offered this summer included All Sorts of Sports, Junior Academy, Hit and Run Baseball/Softball, Bump Set Spike Volleyball, Soccer, and Game Over Junior Basketball. Kids spent the day learning new skills, demonstrating great sportsmanship, and just having fun on their vacation from school. We wish our young community lots of academic success during the upcoming school year. – *Parks & Community Services*



**SHOP LOCAL, SHOP BENICIA:** Mark your calendars to shop local on **Saturday, November 26** during Small Business Saturday. It's the day the national campaign, sponsored by

American Express, asks you to support your local businesses. When it comes to holiday shopping, this is the day we ask you to Skip the Mall and Shop Small. We ask you to **Think Benicia First** and shop local on this day and everyday. – *Economic Development*

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY | NOV 26

**SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESSES**



## **BENICIA FIRE ASSIST WITH SOBERANES FIRE:**

The Benicia Fire Department was called upon to assist CAL FIRE and multiple cooperating agencies to contain the 68,689 acre wildfire burning south of the Carmel Valley and north of Big Sur in Monterey County. They have had numerous Benicia Fire personnel assisting since July 24. Most of the Benicia crews have been released, however, Captain Matcham continues to provide assistance as a Strike Team Leader.

The Soberanes Fire was caused by an illegal campfire in the Garrapata State Park on July, 22. 4,855 personnel are assigned to this fire including: 104 Hand Crews; 271 Engines; 21 Helicopters; 6 Air Tankers; 56 Dozers; and 54 Water Tenders. The fire is currently (as of 8/11/16) 50% contained, with an expected containment date of August 31.

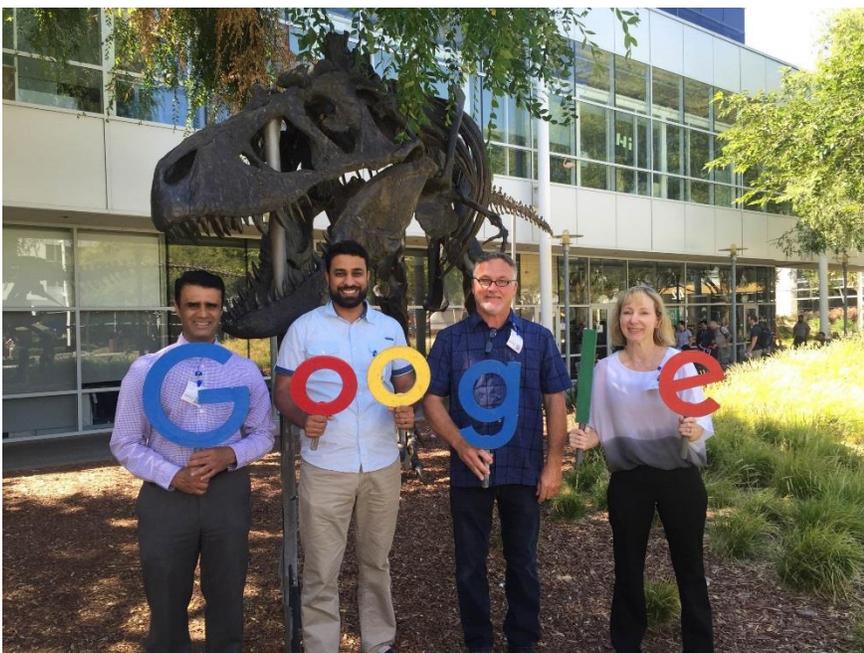
As part of the California Fire Assistance Agreement, the City of Benicia gets reimbursed for personnel and administrative costs for assistance on these strike teams.

Pictured at right are Engineer Steiner, Paramedic/Firefighter Fraser and Paramedic/Firefighter Williams. We wish all crews a safe return! – *Fire Department*



## **GOOGLE TOUR:** Information Technology took some time out on August 3 to visit Google

in Mountain View. Google Analyst, Faaiz Ahmad, gave the group a tour. They explored conference room set up, Google public areas, and work spaces. – *Information Technology*



*City of Benicia IT Staff (l-r):  
Naveed Ashraf, Fwaak Manzoor,  
Dave Bosse & Sandy Ayala*

**BENICIA DIAL-A-RIDE SENIOR FARE:** Seniors traveling off-peak hours now pay a reduced fare on Benicia Dial-A-Ride. Senior Dial-A-Ride Fare (65+) will be \$1 one-way cash fare during the off-peak hours of 10:00 – 3:00 PM during weekdays and ALL day Saturday.

To schedule a trip, call 707.745.0815. More information is available at [www.SoltransRide.com](http://www.SoltransRide.com). – *City Manager's Office*



**ADULT SOFTBALL:** Benicia Parks and Recreation is wrapping up the summer season of adult sports. The Men's and Coed softball leagues had playoffs and championship games last week. The summer season was a great success and the following teams are congratulated for clinching the championships for each league/division:

- Men's League 1: Green CPA Firm
  - Men's League 2: Hope
  - Coed League 2A: Play it Again Sports
  - Coed League 2B: That's How We Roll
- *Parks & Community Services*



**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT RECAP:** This year's Neighborhood Watch National Night Out was held on Tuesday, August 2. The Benicia Police Department coordinates the participating neighborhood block parties and the City caravan that visits each Neighborhood Watch Block Party.

National Night Out is an annual event across America that encourages Neighborhood Watch groups to host a block party in their neighborhoods in cooperation with the local Police Department. The event celebrates the partnership between the neighborhood groups and the Police Department working together to keep our communities safe.

This year Benicia had ten Neighborhood Watch Block Parties; Vecino Drive, 400 blk East K Street, 900 blk West K Street, Bay Vista, Cooper Drive & Byron Court, Buena Vista, Cooper & Bigler Court, 800 blk Dover Circle, Heather Court, and 400 blk Panorama.



*Cooper & Byron Court Block Party*



*400 blk East K Street Block Party presenting Chief Upson with a thank you card to the Police Department*

The City caravan was led by Police Chief Erik Upson and included Police personnel, Fire Chief Jim Lydon and Fire Department personnel, Vice Mayor Mark Hughes, Councilmembers Alan Schwartzman and Tom Campbell, City Manager Steve Salomon, Medic Ambulance, Police volunteers and BERT (Benicia Emergency Response Team) volunteers.

For more information about Neighborhood Watch, please contact [Patti Baron](#), Volunteer Coordinator, at 707.746.4268. – Police Department



*Chief Upson speaking to the Vecino Drive Block Party*



*Buena Vista Block Party*

~ 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