



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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September 8, 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:** As a way of keeping our citizens up-to-date on what City of Benicia staff are working on, I'm highlighting the Crude by Rail Project. Our Community Development Department is the department that is handling Valero Refinery's application to bring crude to the refinery by rail. The Community Development Department has a page on the [City's website](#) highlighting important information on the project:

On February 11, 2016, the Planning Commission declined to certify the Valero Crude by Rail FEIR and denied the Use Permit application. On Monday, February 29, 2016, Valero Refinery submitted a letter appealing the decision of the Planning Commission. The City Council opened the hearing on the appeal on March 15, 2016 for Staff and Applicant presentations. On that date the applicant requested that the item be continued so that they may ask the Surface Transportation Board for a decision on the issue of preemption. Public Comment occurred on April 4, 6, and 18. The City Council closed the public hearing on April 18, 2016. The applicant had rebuttal time on April 19 and the Council asked staff and the applicant questions. The hearing was continued to **Tuesday, September 20, 2016**. The public hearing may be reopened depending on the results of the Surface Transportation Board decision.

Links to the following documents are also available on that webpage:

|                                                              |                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Surface Transportation Board (STB) Documents</a> | <a href="#">Initial Study/Mitigated Declaration</a> |
| <a href="#">Application &amp; Materials</a>                  | <a href="#">EIR Scoping</a>                         |
| <a href="#">Appeal to City Council</a>                       | <a href="#">Draft EIR</a>                           |

Please direct any questions to the Community Development Department at 707.746.4280.  
– City Manager

**REMEMBRANCE OF 9-11:** September 11, 2016 marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the crash of Flight 93. This day has had a profound effect on each and every one of us.

The loss of life from this tragedy was nearly 3,000 people from 93 nations, making September 11, 2001 one of the most tragic days in United States history. Among those tragically taken were firefighters from the New York Fire Department,

law enforcement officers, and far too many civilians.



Join the Benicia Fire Department on **Sunday, September 11**, as they honor the 343 firefighters, and all those who perished that day. A flag memorial will be set up on the lawn adjacent to the Gazebo at City Park (corner of First & Military). Fire Department personnel will be there from 7:00 AM until sunset. They invite you to stop by, honor, reflect, and share this day with them.

They ask all Benicia community members to remember, reflect and pray for the mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and loved ones whose lives were lost that day, and for the families of those left behind. As you hear the sirens of public service vehicles today, and in the days to come, please remember and keep in your hearts the heroes and victims of September 11<sup>th</sup>. – *Fire Department*

**CANDIDATES FORUM SET:** City of Benicia Open Government Commission is hosting a Candidates Forum for Mayoral and City Council candidate running in the November 8 General Election. The Forum will be on **Saturday, November 5**, 9:00-11:00 AM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. It will be broadcast live on your local government channel and rebroadcast on Sunday and Monday.

In the meantime, Benicia Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Candidate's Night on **Tuesday, September 13**, 7:00-9:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 East L Street.

To vote in the November election, you must be registered to vote by October 24, 2016. You may pick up a voter registration form at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall or register online through the [Solano County Registrar of Voters](#). – *City Attorney's Office*

PLEASE ATTEND

## CANDIDATE'S NIGHT

MEET MAYORAL AND  
CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

**TUESDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 13, 2016**  
**7:00–9:00 p.m.**

City Hall Council Chambers • 250 East L Street

- Be an informed voter!
- Know the issues and the candidate's positions
- Forum will be televised on local cable channel 27

SPONSORED BY  
BENICIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
BUSINESS ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

To vote in the Tuesday, November 8th election, you must be registered by Monday, October 24, 2016. Registration forms are available at the Chamber office, 611 First Street, Suite 100, Benicia.

## PERSONNEL NEWS:

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

[Police Officer – Academy/Non-Lateral](#), full-time, closing 10/07/16

[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 the Police Department:** Chief Erik Upson is pleased to welcome the newest member of the Benicia Police Department, Police Officer Martin Stovold. Martin is a graduate of Benicia High. He joined the Army Reserve in 1997 and deployed for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2002-03. He left the Active Guard Reserve to attend the Napa Valley College Police Academy and will graduate on Saturday. He is currently in the Army Reserve holding the rank of Master Sergeant. Martin will begin with Benicia Police on Monday, September 12.



Martin is lives in Benicia with his wife and two children. He enjoys spending time with family and golfing. – *Police Department*

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

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY:** Benicia Police Department will sponsor the next National Prescription Drug Take Back event on **Saturday, October 22** from 9:00 AM -3:00 PM. If you have unused or expired medications, pills or liquids, drop it off at Police Department on that day for safe disposal. You will need to remove pills from containers and place in a ziplock bag. Leave liquids in their containers but remove all personal labels. Start collecting your unused and expired medication now! – *Police Department*



**DON'T WAIT. COMMUNICATE:** Did you know that September is National Preparedness Month? It serves as a reminder that we all must take action to prepare, now and throughout the year, for the types of emergencies that could affect us where we live, work, and also where we visit. Follow the [Benicia Fire Department on Facebook](#) to help you get prepared for an emergency event. Throughout the month of September, the Fire Department will be sharing tips to ensure we are all prepared in the event of an emergency.



**Make Your Emergency Plan Today!** Does your family have an Emergency Plan? Visit [www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan) to make a new plan or update an existing one.

Here are some questions you should consider when making a plan:

- How will my family/household get [emergency alerts and warnings](#)?
- Stay tuned in next few weeks for more information about the City's new Community Mass Notification System – AlertBenicia
- How will my family/household get to safe locations during emergencies?
- How will my family/household get in touch if cell phone, internet, or landline doesn't work?
- How will I let loved ones know I am safe?
- How will family/household get to a meeting place after the emergency?

Here are a couple of websites to help you and your family get prepared:

- <http://www.ready.gov/>
- <http://www.redcross.org/prepare>

Benicia Fire Department is here to help, so please feel free to contact them at 707.746.4275, if you have any questions regarding disaster preparedness. – *Fire Department*

**WATER QUALITY QUESTIONS?** Has your tap water ever tasted or smelled funny? Please rest assured that the Public Works Department diligently tests our water to make sure that it remains safe to drink at all times, but there could be a variety of reasons for this depending on the time of year, water source, and even where you are located or the medication you are taking.

Public Works staff are happy to do an investigation to see if they can locate and remedy any issues you might have with your drinking water. During regular business hours, please call the Water Quality Technician at 707.746.4792. After hour, on weekends and holidays, or in an emergency, please call Police/Fire Dispatch at 707.745.3411 or the Water Treatment Plant at 707.746.4934, which is staffed 24-7-365.



Depending on your taste, some people find using a filter such as Brita helpful, or storing drinking water in a closed glass container in the refrigerator, or drinking with a slice of lemon. – *Public Works*

**ARTS MEANS BUSINESS SURVEY CONTINUES:** The [Arts & Economic Prosperity® 5](#) is a national study measuring the economic impact of nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences. The research study is being conducted by Americans for the Arts, the nation's nonprofit organization advancing the arts and arts education. It is the fifth study to measure the impact of arts spending on local jobs, income paid to local residents, and revenue generated to local and state governments.



Look for volunteers asking patrons to take the anonymous one-page survey at nonprofit arts and cultural events in Benicia throughout 2016. Please take the time to participate if you attend one of these events:

**Benicia Art Walk 2016** - Saturdays, September 10 & Saturday, October 8, 3:00-6:00 PM on First Street.

**Benicia Rotary-Expanding Experiences Wine Tasting and Artist Open Studios** - Wednesday, September 14, 6:00-8:30 PM on Jackson Street.

**Benicia Literary Arts book launch *With a Dream So Proud, The Life of Stepehn Vincent Benet* by Donnell Rubay** - Saturday, September 17, 11:00 AM at Carter's Biz Cafes, 1 Commandant's Lane.

**Arts Benicia Art Auction & Gala** – Saturday, September 24 at 991 Tyler Street.

**Benicia Old Town Theatre Group, The Game's Afoot (or Holmes for the Holidays)** - Friday, October 21 - November 12 at the B.D.E.S Hall, 140 West J Street.

**Soroptimist International of Benicia, SIP with Soroptimists** - Saturday, November 12 at the Clocktower.

**'Tis the Season at the Capitol** featuring Benicia's own Peppino D'agostina, Annabelle Marie and VOENA – Saturday, November 19, 7:30 PM at the Benicia Capitol State Historic Park, 115 West G Street.

**Benicia Capitol State Historic Park Friday Night Holiday Walk** – December 2, 6:00-8:00 PM at 115 West G Street.

**Benicia Arsenal Artists Holiday Open Studios** – Saturday & Sunday, December 3 & 4, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM at the Historic Benicia Arsenal, Jackson Street.

**Benicia Capitol State Historic Park Victorian Ornament Workshop** - Saturday, December 10, 10:30 AM-3:00 PM. Benicia Capitol Building, 115 West G Street

**St. Nicholas at Fischer-Hanlon House** – Saturday, December 10, 10:30 AM-3:00 PM. Located next to the Benicia State Capitol building at 135 West G Street.

The year-long effort to collect surveys and financial information is a joint project of the City of Benicia and volunteers commission members from the City of Benicia Arts and Cultural Commission and Economic Development Board, along with organizations providing arts and culture non-profit events in Benicia. For more information, contact [Diane Smikahl](#), Library Director, at 707.746.4343. - *Library*

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL CLEANUP DAY:** [California Coastal Cleanup Day](#), is coming on **Saturday, September 17**, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Come to any of the following sites to volunteer, then enjoy a picnic at Ninth Street Beach (West 9<sup>th</sup> & J St.) for all participants at Noon:

- West 6<sup>th</sup> & I St at Bordoni
- Foot of First Street
- West 3rd St Beach
- West 9th Street Beach
- West 12th Street Beach
- Benicia State Park Main Parking Lot
- BHS Baseball Field
- Levee Trail off Industrial Road
- Benicia State Park Picnic Area



For more information, contact Sue Frost, Coordinator at 707.980.1895 or [Brad Harms](#), City of Benicia, at 707.746.4337. – *Public Works*

**BUYING LOCAL MAKES A DIFFERENCE:** You may have seen signs around town recently highlighting how much shopping local helps our local economy and helps fund City of Benicia services that Benicia residents have come to rely on and enjoy. The signs highlighted the amount of sales tax generated by local purchases in three categories, Retail & Grocery Shopping, Dining, and Gasoline purchase. The City of Benicia receives 1 cent of each taxable dollar, plus an additional 1 cent of each taxable dollar due to Measure C, which went into effect on April 1, 2015.

**Buying Local Makes a Difference!**

*Retail and Grocery Shopping Generated*



**\$650,286**  
**Local Sales Tax in 2015**

*Helps fund our community's:*  
Police • Fire • Pool • Parks • Ballfields  
Tourism • Recreation Programs • Streets



**Think Benicia First – Keep Your \$\$\$ Local**

**Buying Local Makes a Difference!**

*Dining Generated*



**\$653,278**  
**Local Sales Tax in 2015**

*Helps fund our community's:*  
Police • Fire • Pool • Parks • Ballfields  
Tourism • Recreation Programs • Streets



**Think Benicia First – Keep Your \$\$\$ Local**

**Buying Local Makes a Difference!**

*Fuel Sales Generated*



**\$808,106**  
**Local Sales Tax in 2015**

*Helps fund our community's:*  
Police • Fire • Pool • Parks • Ballfields  
Tourism • Recreation Programs • Streets



**Think Benicia First – Keep Your \$\$\$ Local**

**Buying Local Makes a Difference!**

*Shopping, Fuel Sales and Dining Generated*



**\$2,111,670 Sales Tax in 2015**

*Helps fund our community's:*  
Police • Fire • Pool • Parks • Ballfields  
Tourism • Recreation Programs • Streets



**Think Benicia First – Keep Your \$\$\$ Local**

Next time you start to head out of town to shop, dine, or buy groceries or gas, STOP! Think Benicia first and keep you dollars local, working for you. – *Economic Development*

**NEW LOOK ON FIRST STREET:** Public Works Field Utilities personnel have replaced 44 faded First Street signs with the new High Intensity Prismatic (HIP) signs. The new signs have better reflectivity and can be seen much easier at night from a distance. They also have a graffiti protection film to cut down on the need for sign replacement from vandalism. A total of 24 labor hours were spent on the design, purchasing, removal and replacement of the signs. The signs cost \$2,100 to fabricate by placing new sign material over the existing metal sign.



*Field Utilities Street Journeyman Bill Chauvin and Field Utilities Street Apprentice Ben Hirsch at work*

High intensity films, originally used beads. Yet, the shift has been to prismatic constructions. HIP signs are brighter, generally, than the old HIS (or beaded) signs. HIP signs actually have gray bars on the inside of the film that help deaden the retroreflectivity a bit. When these fade in time, some find that the HIP signs actually become more reflective and brighter. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) has specified the new rules that will have most of the City's 10,000 traffic signs switching over to the High Intensity Prismatic signs over the next few years. – *Public Works*

**WORM BIN COMPOSTING:** Benicia Public Library invites you to Worm Bin Composting 101 on **Wednesday, September 21** at 7:00 PM. Learn about home composting and build your own worm bin with Master Gardeners Annette Sousa & Michael Mees. The presentation is free and open to the public but pre-registration is required to receive a free starter bin and worms (24 bins available). Register at [www.BeniciaLibrary.org/reserve-worm-bin](http://www.BeniciaLibrary.org/reserve-worm-bin). The event is co-sponsored by Friends of the Benicia Public Library, UCCE Solano County Master Gardeners and Republic Services. - *Library*



**FINANCE WITH HERO:** Find out how easy it is to finance clean energy and water conservation upgrades for your home. Check out the HERO program for further information: <https://www.heroprogram.com/ca/benicia> - *Community Development*



**ABOVE & BEYOND:** On August 31, the Benicia Police Department paid a special tribute to one of those rare individuals who is totally committed to service at the highest level. Tyrone Stuart is a Special Services E911 Technician for AT&T. He is the Police Department's 'go-to' technician for all of their major phone communications issues.

You can imagine how important it is for the Police Department to be at 100% when it comes to their phone lines. When you call, they must be there for you. As one more way for the Police Department to improve



*l-r: IT Analyst Sandy Ayala, Tyrone Stuart, Chief Erik Upson and Lt. Scott Przekurat*



communication with the public and enhance the quality of service they provide, they decided to get rid of the error prone phone tree system, and Tyrone was the man for the job. On August 31, their phone system was upgraded in order to enhance their service to the community, allowing callers to reach a live person rather than a phone tree, alleviating frustration.

Having someone like Tyrone working with the Police Department has been a real blessing because he always get the job done. He says he learned his work ethic from his grandfather. For his commitment to the Benicia Police Department and the City of Benicia, Chief Upson presented Tyrone with a Chief's Challenge Coin. – *Police Department*

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



# Senior Patrol Volunteers Needed

The Benicia Police Department is looking for a few good men and women to serve as volunteers on our Senior Patrol Program. Volunteers are a great resource and provide invaluable services to our Department.



## Senior Patrol Duties:

- Vacation Home Checks
- Community Events
- Traffic Control
- Crime Scene Security
- Neighborhood Watch
- Transportation Duties
- Parking Enforcement



## Requirements:

- Must be 55+ and Fully Retired.
- Pass a Background Check. No Criminal History.
- Possess a California Driver's License.
- Good Physical Condition.
- Available Weekdays and Weekends. (Minimum 4 Hours per Week.)



If you have the time and desire to help out,  
please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Patti Baron at 707-746-4268

**REPORTING A STREET LIGHT OUT:** Street lights are important for public safety. The Public Works Department encourages you to report any street light outages or "day burners" that do not go off immediately during the day. Typical reasons for streetlight outages range from vehicle accidents, lamp and component failure, loss of power supplied by PG&E, or the costlier, faulty electrical distribution system wiring.

There are three options to report outages. Please have the street light/pole number ready:



- Call the City's contractor, DC Electric Group at 866.523.8386.
- Log onto DC Electric Group's online Streetlight Repair Request Portal at <http://dcelectricgroup.com/street-light-repair.html> and enter the required information detailing the outage.
- Call to report the outage directly to the City of Benicia Corporation Yard at 707.746.4296.

The Public Works Department can receive several calls per week regarding street light outages, and often can mitigate the issue within 3 to 5 days. Citizens are encouraged to report any street light outages immediately so that all calls can promptly be turned over to DC Electric Group for attention within 5 days as required by contract. – *Public Works*

~ 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