



## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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September 22, 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:** The City of Benicia is now working with [Everbridge](#), the worldwide leader in unified critical communications, to keep residents, businesses, staff and emergency personnel safe and informed with quick and reliable emergency notifications and public service announcements. The system will communicate with citizens and businesses during emergencies and other critical events.

Do you live, work, or go to school in Benicia and are you 18 and over? Register your cell phone, email or VoIP (voice over internet) to receive emergency alerts sent by voice, text, or email. Emergency officials use this system to make rapid incident-specific alerts or potentially life-saving instructions to precise geographically affected area(s).

Landline numbers are listed in our system. Cell phone and VoIP numbers are not.

Register for Emergency Alerts now at:

[www.AlertBenicia.org](http://www.AlertBenicia.org)

The City of Benicia will use the Everbridge emergency notification system to alert residents about a variety of events, ranging from severe weather, fires, floods and other emergencies, to more routine announcements, such as road closures and water utility maintenance. Messages will be sent to residents on their preferred contact paths—cell phone, SMS, home phone, email, fax, pager and more—to ensure real-time access to potentially lifesaving information. Residents listed in the Benicia 911 database will be automatically subscribed to alerts by phone, but Everbridge allows citizens to self-register, provide additional contact information or opt out.



“We have a commitment to ensure public safety, community awareness and emergency response. To uphold this, when critical information and public service announcements are available, we need to reach our residents as quickly and reliably as possible,” said Jim Lydon, Fire Chief. “The Everbridge emergency notification system allows the City of Benicia to disseminate this information across all types of devices, ensuring residents have access to real-time public information when they need it the most.”

For assistance with registering, email [BeniciaFire@AlertBenicia.org](mailto:BeniciaFire@AlertBenicia.org) or all 707.746.4749.  
– *City Manager*

**GET EMERGENCY ALERTS  
CITY OF BENICIA**

**REGISTER YOUR CELL OR VoIP**



## Get Emergency Alerts



- ◆ Do you live, work, or go to school in Benicia and are you 18 and over?
- ◆ Register your cell phone, email or VoIP (voice over internet) to receive emergency alerts sent by voice, text, or email
- ◆ Landline numbers are listed in our system  
**Cell phone and VoIP numbers are not**

**Register at [www.AlertBenicia.org](http://www.AlertBenicia.org)**

Emergency officials use this system to make rapid incident-specific alerts or potentially life-saving instructions to the precise geographically affected area (s)

**FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE:** Find out about resources in our area by joining the Benicia Fire Department and other responders at the annual Benicia Fire Department Open House on **Saturday, October 15**, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, at Fire Station #11, 150 Military West. There will be free food, goodies bags for the kids, Fire Station tours, face painting, Police Department, 9-1-1- Dispatchers, hands-on extinguisher demos, Coast Guard boat tours, fire engine show & tell, Benicia Family Resource Center, CHP, REACH Air Medical, Benicia Emergency Response Team (BERT), Jump House, Benicia Amateur Radio Club (BARC), and more...



**BENICIA FIRE DEPARTMENT**

# 2016 OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday 11 am—3pm** 

## October 15th

Fire Station 11, 150 Military West, Benicia

For more information, please call 707.746.4275. – *Fire Department*

**MARIJUANA FORUM SCHEDULED:** The Benicia Police Department's Youth Action Coalition and Benicia High School are sponsoring an educational forum:

***Marijuana: Weeding Out the Facts  
Protecting Our Youth***

**Thursday, October 6, 6:30-8:30 PM**  
Benicia High School Performing Arts Building  
1101 Military West



The forum will feature John Redman, Executive Director, Californians for Drug Free Youth and will focus on educating parents and adults on the harmful effects on the youth brain, today's marijuana potency and products, and the impacts legalization has had on Washington and Colorado.

This forum is FREE and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

This event is supported by the Solano County ATOD Prevention Collaborative and will also be presented in Suisun/Fairfield on Monday, October 3 and Rio Vista on Wednesday, October 5.

For more information, contact [Patti Baron](#), Volunteer Coordinator, at 707.746.4268. – *Police*

**COOLCALIFORNIA SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS:** Small businesses are encouraged to apply for a [CoolCalifornia Small Business Award](#) now through **November 7**. Get recognized for the actions you've taken to reduce your environmental impacts and become more sustainable! – Economic Development

**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**  
**UNTIL NOVEMBER 7, 2016**



The CoolCalifornia Small Business Awards program recognizes California small businesses that take action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, promote climate friendly practices and integrate the tools on [CoolCalifornia.org](#) into their business operations. To receive recognition for your sustainability efforts, apply for an award TODAY!  
[WWW.COOLCALIFORNIA.ORG](#)

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- Sept. 6, 2016 – Open application period
- Nov. 7, 2016 – Last day to apply
- Dec. 2016 – Site visits to prospective winners
- Jan. 2017 – Winners announced
- Feb. 2017 – Awards ceremony in Sacramento

## PERSONNEL NEWS:

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

[Senior Account Clerk](#), full-time, closing 10/04/16

[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*

**Upcoming PD Ceremony:** Benicia Police Department is hosting a ceremony to swear-in and celebrate the hiring of new staff on **Tuesday, September 27**, at 9:30 AM in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Police Officers Stephanie Polizziani, Jerry Ribeira, Greg DeGrange, Martin Stovold will be sworn-in. New hires Management Analyst Irma Widjojo, Dispatcher Amanda Lewis, FRC Clerk Kristin Kamm, Patrol Volunteer Doris Laux, and Police Chaplin Chris Harris will be welcomed. A reception will immediately follow the ceremony. - *Police*



**UPDATE ON TREE LIGHTS ON FIRST STREET:** The tree lights in the 1100 blk. of First Street in front of the Veterans Hall and the City Park are brand new lights that were installed in August. The original lights were removed in 2013 as part of the Intermodal Project but due to complications with electrical boxes, new lights could not be installed until 2016. The City of Benicia paid for the installation of the new lights and new electrical boxes, the total cost neared \$15,000 from the Economic Development budget. This is the reason why the Vets Hall lights are so much brighter than the other lights on First Street.

The total cost of the lights on First Street installed in November 2012 was approximately \$76,000 for which the City paid all of the cost upfront and the DBA ([Downtown Benicia Alliance](#) – Business Improvement District (BID) group made up of First Street businesses)



reimbursed \$30,000. Additionally, the City paid for new GFI (new wiring on lamp posts) so the lights would not trip as often in the winter. The current BID will expire in 2017. If the BID is renewed next year, then the remaining lights on First Street may be replaced in fall/winter of 2017. – *Economic Development*

**UPDATE ON MCE:** Marin Clean Energy, one of the energy providers in the City of Benicia, provided the following highlights in recent press releases:



- [New Lower Rates](#): MCE's rates have been reduced an average of 9%, effective in September
- **Major Win for Climate:** MCE has calculated estimated greenhouse gas savings of over 122,000 metric tons from 2010-2014 or equivalent to taking close to 26,000 cars off the road
- **New MCE Communities:** This September, MCE service began in the North Bay communities of American Canyon, Napa, Yountville, St. Helena, and Calistoga as well as the East Bay communities of Lafayette and Walnut Creek. This brings MCE's service to a total of 24 communities
- Overall enrollment in these communities is about 91.5% with 719 accounts choosing our Deep Green 100% renewable energy option
- [Solar Customers Win Big](#): MCE paid out more than \$1 million dollars to our solar customers in 2016
- [Local Sol Feed-in-Tariff Project](#) update: 1.5 MW Solar Carport in Novato will power 300 homes in MCE service area soon. [Check out the video!](#)
- [Billing Made Easy](#): Check out our latest video to help answer any billing questions;
- [Business Savings](#): Remember, small commercial properties in MCE's service territory, including city buildings, are eligible to receive a range of cost-saving measures and a free energy assessment. Contact us to learn more.

- *Community Development*

**OPEN GYM BADMINTON:** September 7 was the launch of a new Open Gym Badminton program at the City Gym. Twenty-four eager players came to test out the new nets and challenge fellow players to some friendly competition. We welcomed players from ages 6 to 80ish for a fun night. One court was designated the competitive court to cater to the more advance players, while the other 3 courts were for recreation and family play. New and talented players alike joined us for the first night of play and the gym was filled with shouts of victory and laughter.



Open Gym Badminton is available every Wednesday night at the City Gym from 6:30-9:00 PM. You can bring your own racket or check one out with the staff on site. Shuttlecocks are provided for your use. Open Gym is available for all ages. Adult 18 and older must show ID and are \$3 for residents and \$4 for non-residents. Youth under 18 are \$1 and must have an adult present to

sign the participation waiver. Come on by and learn a new sport and enjoy some fun exercise with family and friends. – *Parks & Community Services*

**UPDATE FROM PUBLIC WORKS:** Here is a look at what the Public Works Department was up to in August.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant- Projects:** During the month of August, there were a number of small projects completed. Wastewater Treatment Plant staff worked together to dismantle and get rid of the plant's old diesel backup electric generator. A new generator that runs on natural or liquid propane gas was installed in 2001, and the diesel generator was decommissioned at that time. This large piece of equipment, along with other abandoned pipes and ducting were all removed from the plant's secondary equipment building basement in preparation of a large electrical system project to reroute a lot of the main power wires for the treatment plant.

Upon routine inspection, one of the three influent pumps (the pumps that bring all untreated wastewater into the treatment plant) was found to have some problems with the main drive shaft. All necessary repairs were made to have the pump back to normal operation. There were a few sump pumps



located in underground control vaults around the facility that were not functioning, and staff worked together to replace these pumps to protect the controlling equipment that is located in these vaults. Thank you to the Wastewater Treatment Plant staff for another month of work well done.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant - Maintenance:** Wastewater Treatment Plant personnel successfully completed 89 preventative maintenance work orders, and 15 corrective maintenance work orders.



**WWTP Plant Performance:** The Wastewater Treatment Plant processed 55.54 million gallons of wastewater this last month with no exceedances of the discharge permit. Nutrient pollution removal was 96% for BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand), and 99% for TSS (Total Suspended Solids). This information was determined by Water Quality Laboratory personnel performing 1,626 analyses on 321 samples, using 48 different testing methods. The monthly bioassay test, which puts live minnows in the treatment plant's final effluent to survive for one week, passed with an 87.5% survival rate. – *Public Works*

**GET INVOLVED & BE PREPARED!** Individuals can make a difference in their own community, but not everyone has bought into preparedness. Research on personal preparedness indicates that individuals who believe they are prepared for disasters often are not as prepared as they think. In addition, some admit they do not plan to prepare at all.

Our nation's emergency managers, firefighters, law enforcement officers, EMT/Paramedics, and other emergency responders do an incredible job of keeping us safe, but they cannot do it alone. We must all embrace our personal responsibility to be prepared - in doing so; we contribute to the safety and security of our communities as well.

Get Involved & Be Prepared BEFORE disaster strikes! Here are a few ideas and tips:

- Get trained and volunteer with a Community Emergency Response Team (in Benicia, that's BERT), Medical Reserve Corps unit and/or other Citizen Corps Partner Program or Affiliate organization. Check our local BERT Program - <http://beniciacc.org/bert/>
- Start a Neighborhood Watch Program with your neighbors - Benicia residents can contact Patti Baron, Benicia Police Department, at [pbaron@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:pbaron@ci.benicia.ca.us) or 707.746.4268
- Have an interest in amateur radios? Our local BARC folks are an active group with a focus on Emergency Communications. Get involved with BARC - <http://beniciaarc.com/wp/>
- Check out "[Are You Ready? An In-Depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness](#)"
- An emergency may knock out power. Prepare by stocking non-perishable food items and water.
- Keep a radio and extra batteries handy to listen for info from local officials if you lose power.
- Take meds? Plan ahead by keeping a copy of your Rx + 1 week supply in a safe place.
- Download the FEMA app for safety tips and NWS weather alerts for up to 5 locations - <http://fema.gov/mobile-app>
- Follow Benicia Fire Department on: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

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

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

- Fire Department



**LOOKING FOR A JOB?** Or know someone who is? The Workforce Development Board of Solano County invites you to their Regional Career Fair on **Thursday, October 6, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM** at University of Phoenix, 5253 Business Center in Fairfield. 66 regional employers will be attending with hiring opportunities. [Click here](#) for a full list. – *Economic Development*



**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF SOLANO COUNTY**

# WDB REGIONAL CAREER FAIR

**Thursday, October 6, 2016**  
**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
at the  
**University of Phoenix**  
5253 Business Center Dr.  
Fairfield, CA 94534



co-hosted by  
**University of Phoenix®**

**66 REGIONAL EMPLOYERS  
ATTENDING WITH  
HIRING OPPORTUNITIES!**

For the most current list of employers, visit:  
[www.solanowib.org](http://www.solanowib.org). Click on the Career Fair icon.



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The WDB is an EO/AA/ADA Employer/Program. TDD Relay #1-800-735-2922.  
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon advance request.

**INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR BENICIA REUSE PROJECT:**  
The City of Benicia has prepared and made public a draft Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) to evaluate potential environmental effects associated with the proposed Benicia Water Reuse Project. The project is required to undergo an environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to disclose any potential environmental effects of the project to the public and decision-makers. The IS/MND is available for public review for a 30-day period ending on **October 17, 2016**. The City is the Lead Agency for the proposed project under CEQA.



The Benicia Water Reuse Project (Project) would produce recycled water year-round, and would benefit all City water customers by reducing the City's dependence on imported water supplies that are vulnerable in times of drought. The Project would produce approximately 2 million gallons per day (2240 acre-feet per year) of highly-treated recycled water for the Valero Benicia Refinery and other City customers for non-potable uses. The project would involve upgrades to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant to produce water suitable for use in the refinery's cooling towers, and construction of a 3-mile underground pipeline within the public right of way and a storage tank on Valero property. A more detailed description of this project is found in Chapter 2 of the IS/MND document.

As part of the public review process, the City is seeking public input regarding the scope and content of the environmental information, and encourages those who are interested to participate in the environmental process by providing written comments. The IS/MND is available on-line on the City's website at:

[http://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/index.asp?SEC=C3FFA6AD-0946-43A8-981A-ED1DC0107806&DE=A5B70EDA-D6C7-4E45-99CD-41904736BEB3&Type=B\\_BASIC](http://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/index.asp?SEC=C3FFA6AD-0946-43A8-981A-ED1DC0107806&DE=A5B70EDA-D6C7-4E45-99CD-41904736BEB3&Type=B_BASIC)

The IS/MND is also available for review at the Public Works Counter in Benicia City Hall or at the Benicia Public Library. Comments must be provided in writing to Graham Wadsworth, Public Works Director, 250 East L Street, Benicia, California 94510 by mail or sent via e-mail to [gwadsworth@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:gwadsworth@ci.benicia.ca.us). All comments must be received by the Public Works Department no later than 5:00 PM on **October 17, 2016**. – *Public Works*



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

**OKTOBERFEST 2016:** Benicia Human Services Fund invites you to attend their 2016 Oktoberfest celebration on **Saturday, October 1** at the Benicia Clock Tower. Tickets are \$35/each or \$60/2 and are available at Benicia Main Street, Earthly Nutrition, the City of Benicia Finance Department and online at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com). - Finance

**Benicia Human Services**  
Proudly Presents

# Oktoberfest 2016

**Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>**  
6:00 - 10:00 PM  
**Benicia Clock Tower**  
Food • Beer • Wine • Music

**Featuring**  
**BRÜEHOL BREWING** 2014

**Proceeds Benefit:**  
Benicia Community Action Council  
Familles In Transition  
Catholic Social Services  
BUSD Special Friends

**Tickets Available Now:**  
**\$35/ea ~OR~ Two for \$60**

Benicia Main Street ♦ Earthly Nutrition ♦ Benicia City Hall Finance Dpt  
[www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

**STEVE YOUNG** FOR BENICIA CITY COUNCIL  
**FRANCES HARKINS, CFP, AIF** NORTH CAPITAL  
**RPM MORTGAGE**  
**FAIRWAY** INDEPENDENT MORTGAGE CORPORATION  
**KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON** WITH Christina S. Stranberg, Benicia City Council  
**Lionel LARGASPADA** BENICIA CITY COUNCIL [www.votelionel.com](http://www.votelionel.com)  
**Mark Hughes** MAYOR OF BENICIA  
**TWIN OAKS REALTY**  
**ELIZABETH PATTERSON** ELIZABETH PATTERSON REALTY  
**George Oakes for City Council** GO 4 Benicia  
**GAVIN & SCHREINER** INSURANCE SERVICES  
**Christina S.**  
**BENICIA PLUMBING** ESTABLISHED 1978  
**CARQUINEZ DENTAL GROUP**  
**GIZZI & GREPP** ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**RECAP OF COASTAL CLEANUP DAY 2016:** On Saturday, September 17, 510 volunteers came down to beaches and roadways in Benicia to clean up trash before it polluted the oceans and endangered wildlife. Volunteers ranged in age from 2 years-old to 96 year-old World War II veteran Peter Caggiano who helped out at Benicia State Park. “I’m impressed with the number of seniors that turned out,” said Caggiano.



Nearly a ton, 1910 pounds of trash was collected along with 140 pounds of recyclables. Some of the more interesting items included a walker, a microwave and a remote controlled vibration device.

“The Benicia Lions Club did a wonderful job BBQing tri-tip and hot dogs for nearly 300 volunteers,” said Clean Up coordinator Sue Frost. “And Umpqua Bank provided pop-cycles for the event. We really couldn’t have done the lunch without the Lions Club help.” Benicia High School had 141 students show up to clean up the area around their school. Thanks for everyone’s helps in keeping Benicia beautiful. – *Public Works*



**NEWS IN SOLANO SQUARE:** KFC recently vacated the building on Military East in Solano Square after not renewing their lease. The owners have repainted the building as a way of removing logo signage and are giving some thought to a new tenant. Stay tuned... – *Economic Development*

~ 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](tel:707.746.4200): 707.746.4200

[City Attorney](tel:707.746.4216): 707.746.4216

[Administrative Services](tel:707.746.4200) (Finance, Human Resources, I.T): 707.746.4200

[City Clerk](tel:707.746.4200): 707.746.4200

[Community Development](tel:707.746.4280): 707.746.4280

[Economic Development](tel:707.746.4202): 707.746.4202

[Fire Department](tel:707.746.4275): 707.746.4275

[Library](tel:707.746.4343): 707.746.4343

[Parks & Community Services](tel:707.746.4285): 707.746.4285

[Police Department](tel:707.746.4265): 707.746.4265

[Public Works](tel:707.746.4240): 707.746.4240