



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

October 20, 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: I continue to enjoy my time here at the City of Benicia. The City Council has hired a firm to find a permanent replacement. After the current election, the candidates will be interviewed by the newly sworn City Council and community panels in the first half of January. The new City Manager should be onboard in mid- February to early March.

Have you ever wondered what's going on with large projects in Benicia? I invite you to be informed about what your city staff are working on through your City Council, and take a look at the [City Council Agenda and Minutes](#) on the City's website. You'll find detailed staff reports attached to the agendas and the resulting actions in the minutes. You can even [watch the meeting live](#) or later at your convenience using the 'video' link in the meeting listing. For example, at the last City Council meeting the [Citywide Street Resurfacing Program and Request for Funds](#) was discussed and acted upon, as well as, an update on the [Measure C Expenditure Plan](#).



Agendas, Minutes, and Videos

Meetings are arranged by date, with the most recent at the top of the list. Click [Video](#) to listen to the meeting and view agenda documents, or [Agenda](#) or [Minutes](#) to see just the documents. You can also search the archives by typing keywords into the Search box.

[Streaming Video Help](#)

Upcoming Events

Traffic, Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee	October 20, 2016 - 07:00 PM	Agenda
City Council Meeting	October 25, 2016 - 06:00 PM	Agenda
Historic Preservation Review Commission	October 27, 2016 - 06:30 PM	Agenda

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Available Archives

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Benicia Human Services Board

City Council

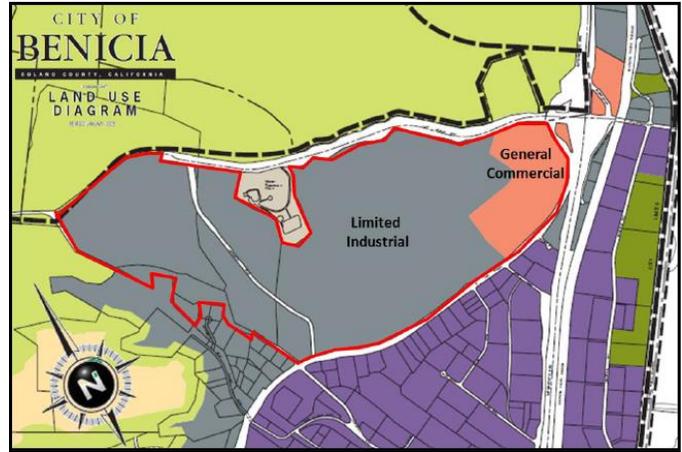
City Council	Oct 18, 2016	02h 56m	Agenda	Video
City Council	Oct 4, 2016	03h 49m	Agenda	MINUTES
City Council	Sep 20, 2016	01h 42m	Agenda	MINUTES
City Council	Sep 6, 2016	03h 34m	Agenda	MINUTES

The Benicia City Council meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month and occasionally holds a study session on the fourth Tuesday in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 East L Street. Agendas are issued on the Thursday before the meeting. [Sign up here](#) to receive a notice and link when agendas are posted. – *City Manager*

October 6, 2016

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NORTHERN GATEWAY PROJECT UPDATE: The Northern Gateway project is a conceptual mixed-use proposal by the Schwartz Development Group which has an option to purchase the property between East 2nd Street and Lake Herman Road. Mr. Schwartz, the applicant, held workshops with the Benicia Planning Commission on January 26, 2016 and Benicia City Council on February 22, 2016 to review his conceptual plan and elicit feedback from the Community. Recently, Mr. Schwartz placed an ad in Benicia Magazine and created a website to further explore his concept with the community. From the City of Benicia's perspective, as a matter of processing the project, Mr. Schwartz has an incomplete application and there has been no activity or update by the Schwartz Development Group since the Planning Commission and City Council workshops earlier this year. – *Community Development*



WINTER WATERING RESTRICTIONS: Automatic sprinklers are limited to one day per week beginning **Sunday, October 16**, when winter watering restrictions went into effect. Specifically, sprinklers are limited to use on either Saturdays or Sundays (customer choice as to which day), before 8:00 AM or after 7:00 PM.

The restrictions are part of the City's Emergency Outdoor Water Restrictions ordinance, which was adopted by the Benicia City Council in July 2014 and applies to both residential and commercial customers. This emergency ordinance was designed to further encourage water reductions in light of the serious drought plaguing California and its impact on Benicia's water supply.

The ordinance has different watering restrictions for summer vs. winter. The restrictions change from 3 days per week to 1 day per week because with cooler temperatures and shorter days, landscaping needs less water.

Benicia customers have done an impressive jobs reducing water use and their efforts are acknowledged and appreciated. Benicia's conservation rates have averaged 38 percent June through August compared to the same timeframe in 2013. Benicia was specifically mentioned in a September 7, 2016 media release issued by the State Water Resources Control Board for maintaining strong water conservation efforts and reduced water use. An

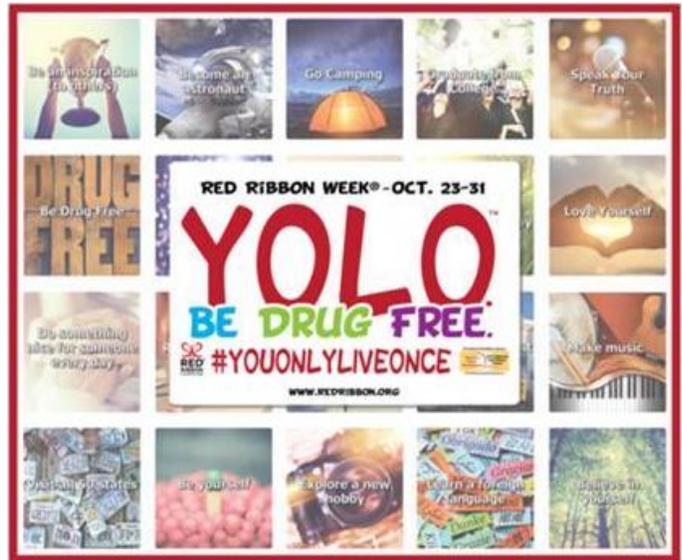
important factor in the City's success is the ordinance's landscape water reductions. Most household water use occurs outdoors, and limiting landscape watering can produce significant water savings.

More information, plus water wise tips and rebate programs are available at BeniciaSavesWater.org or by contacting the Water Conservation Team at 707.746.4380 or water@ci.benicia.ca.us. – *Public Works*



RED RIBBON WEEK: The Benicia Police Department announces that this year's National Anti-Drug Red Ribbon Week will run **Sunday, October 23 – Monday, October 31** with a number of community and school activities promoting a drug free community. In support of Red Ribbon Week, the Police Department employees will wear red ribbon lapel pins and patrol vehicles will don red ribbons.

Local schools will also participate by having various anti-drug activities throughout the week. The Police Department's Youth Action Coalition supports the student activities by providing Red Ribbon school kits that include posters, ribbons, wrist bands, activities and giveaways that encourage the students to promote anti-drugs in the community.



“Our goal is to bring awareness to the community and to encourage and empower our students to be drug free. Our officers see first-hand the terrible effects illegal drugs can have on kids and adults. We encourage everyone in the community to show their support for a Drug Free Community” said Patti Baron, BYAC Coordinator. – *Police Department*

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK: This Saturday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM at Benicia Police Department, 200 East L Street. You are encouraged to help keep expired and unused drug

out of landfills, waterways, and out of the hands of our youth. – *Police Department*

IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THOSE WHO LIVE AND WORK HERE

Don't throw Expired or Unused Drugs in the Garbage or Down a Toilet...

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY
Saturday, October 22, 2016
9:00am - 3:00pm

Benicia Police Department
 200 East L Street / (707) 746-4268

Dixon Police Department
 201 West A Street / (707) 678-7070

Rio Vista Police Department
 50 Poppy House Road / (707) 374-6366

Solano County Sheriff Coroner's Office
 520 Clay Street, Fairfield / (707) 784-7500

60th Wing Travis Air Force Base
 BX (Next to Starbucks) 461 Skymaster Circle Bldg 650 / (707) 423-5345

Suisun City Police Department
 701 Civic Center Blvd. / (707) 421-7373

Yacaville Police Department
 660 Merchant St. / (707) 469-4707

Vallejo Police Department
 111 Amador Street / (707) 648-5291

REMEMBER...
 Seal all liquids and creams!
 Remove personal information!
 No sharps!

<http://Recycle.SolanoCounty.com>

A Local Partnership Supporting the Drug Enforcement Agency's National "Prescription Take Back" Initiative.

ENSURE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

MAINTAIN A SAFE COMMUNITY - INVEST IN AID FOR THE FUTURE

Benicia will be there so you can purchase books from the talk and of course, you can always check out the books from the Library.

Ron has been coming twice a year to the Library for approximately 10 years. When Ron presents his talks, you feel like you should go home and start reading immediately. He will be retiring soon so this will be his last book talk. You are invited to come and find out about some great books and say goodbye to Ron. - *Library*



PERSONNEL NEWS:

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

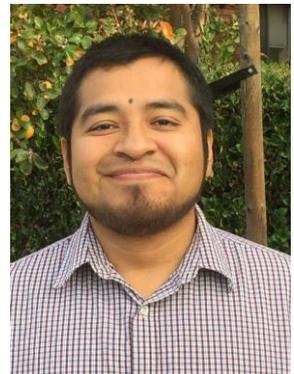


[Senior Account](#), full-time, closing 10/26/16
[Parks Landscape Building Maintenance Worker](#), full-time, closing 11/04/16
[Seasonal Park Worker](#), part-time, open continuously

<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 Community Development Department: Director Christina Radcliffe is pleased to welcome the new Assistant Planner, Adrian Lopez. He comes to us Habitat for Humanity and has previously worked for Morgan Hill's Redevelopment Agency. He has a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from San Jose State University and has a particular love for historic preservation. He's also a huge Raiders fan. Adrian has an awesome can-do attitude and we are excited to welcome him to the CDD team! – *Community Development*



Please join us in welcoming Adrian to the City of Benicia family. – *City Manager*

REGISTER TO VOTE: **October 24** is the last day to register to vote in the November 8 election. Are you passionate about something? You can't vote if you're not registered. Check your status or register at <http://www.co.solano.ca.us/depts/rov/default.asp> - *City Clerk*

LOW INCOME DISCOUNT AVAILABLE: Residential customers participating in the PG&E CARE program are eligible to apply for a discount on their water maintenance charge at their primary residence. This will be effective on your November bill. Applications are accepted at the [City Hall Finance Department](#), 250 East L Street. Their office hours are Monday thru Friday from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM.



Please bring with you:

- A recent City Utility (Water) bill*
- A recent PG&E bill* that shows your enrollment in the CARE Program. This is a mandatory requirement to qualify.
- California's driver's license* or State identification card* that has your name and current address

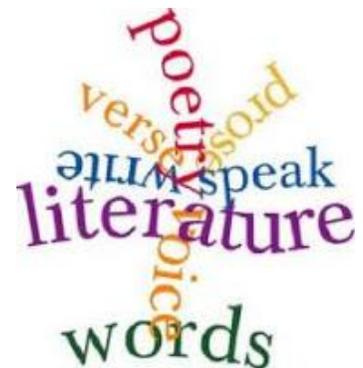
* Applicant's name should appear on all documents.

You will need to re-apply for the low income discount every 2 years. If you have any questions, please call 707.746-4225. – *Finance*

POETRY NEWS:

- First Sunday Poetry Series on **Sunday, November 5**, 2:00 – 4:00 PM, at Rosanna's European Delights, 305 First Street
- Poetry Open House on **Tuesday, November 19**, 6:00 PM at the Library. Find out what the First Tuesday Poetry Group is all about.
- 2017 Love Poetry Submissions Due on **Wednesday, November 30**. See [Library's website](#) for submission instructions.

- *Library*



SIMPLE QUESTION: Your Benicia Firefighters have one simple question for you. Are you signed up for [AlertBenicia](#)? If we can't reach you, we can't alert you!



Register today - www.AlertBenicia.org and share this message with your friends and loved ones. We want you to be safe! – *Fire Department*

FINAL CANDIDATE FORUM: Candidates for Mayor and City Council in the City of Benicia will have a unique opportunity to deliver the “Final Word” to voters at a televised Candidates Forum before the election. Instead of campaign promises or last-minute attacks on opponents, the forum will focus on any last minute “hit pieces” circulated the last two weeks of the election. Campaigns can be hard-hitting and critical but should not mislead or deceive voters.



The public is invited to attend the forum on **Saturday, November 5**, at 9:00 AM in the City Council Chamber at 250 East L Street. It will be broadcast live on xfinity/Comcast channel 27, AT&T U-verse channel 99, and video streamed on the [City’s website](#). It will be re-broadcast on Sunday, November 6 at 7:00 PM and Monday, November 7 at 7:00 PM on the same cable channels and City’s video streaming.

At the Forum, voters will have an opportunity to hear candidates for city council or mayor discuss any mailers sent to voters in the final two weeks before the election. Candidates and residents are also invited to compliment candidates who conducted campaigns that may have been hard-hitting but were also fair and issues-oriented.

Please note the Forum may be canceled by unanimous decision of candidates for the mayor or council seats. – *City Attorney’s Office*

NEW REGISTRATION SYSTEM: Benicia Parks and Community Services is excited to announce their NEW registration system. You will now be able to register for most of your favorite programs online! (Some programs will still require registration at the office). All you will need is a new login and password and you will be ready to shop the programs at your leisure. The first step to easy online registration is to stop by the Parks & Community Services office at 370 East L Street so that they can set up your account. The email you provide will be your login and we will give you a temporary password to access the registration site.

How do you find the site? Go to www.ci.benicia.ca.us/parksandcommunityservices, and click on the “register now” button. That will take you directly to the new site and you can then bookmark the site for quick access in the future.



Curious if the picnic sites at City Park, Benicia Community Park, or Jack London picnic sites are available? Want to know if the Clock Tower is available for your next event? You can view the availability of some of our most popular rental facilities online, as well. Just locate the Check Availability button on the Parks, Facilities, and Rentals page online. Whether or not space is available can be viewed online, but reservations will still need to be made in person at the office in the Community Center.



Staff are very excited that this new system will help our community members stay up to date on all the exciting programs and classes they offer, as well as help you plan your next picnic, party, or event. Call 707.746.4285 or stop by our office at 370 East L Street if you have questions, or to set up your online account. Or stop by to register, if that is your preference. – *Parks & Community Services*

GRANIZO TILE UNVEILED:

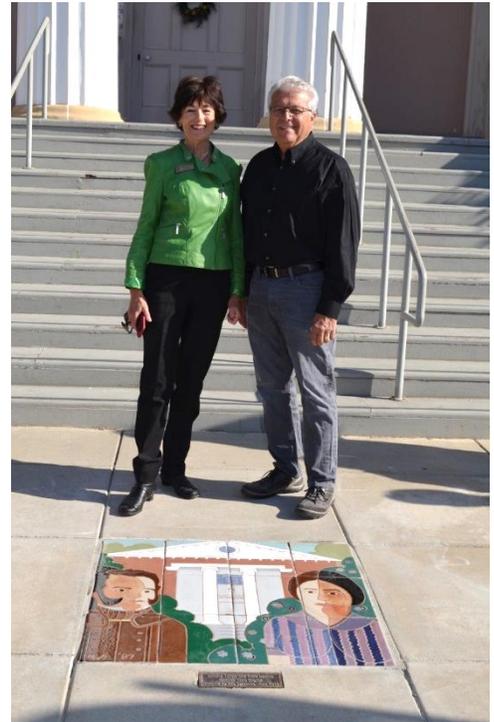
The landscape of First Street improved recently with the celebration of laying and unveiling of the last set of tiles created by long-time resident and artist Guillermo Wagner representing Dona Francesca Maria Felipa Benicia Vallejo and General Mariano Vallejo in front of the California's first capitol building.



The Benicia Arts and Culture Commission worked tirelessly to select the site and work with the City of Benicia for the

proper installation at the capitol. Attending the unveiling were members of the Arts and Culture Commission as well as Mayor Elizabeth Patterson, Council Member Christina Strawbridge, Mr. Granizo's son, Robert, and many representatives of local arts and culture groups.

Mr. Granizo's tiles have captured the history of Benicia through his pavement portraits and pictorials. The subject of the tiles are landmarks, events and people that shaped Benicia. The first tiles displaying the history of Benicia were placed in the city's sidewalks in 1988. This set of tiles is the last in the series of tiles depicting Benicia's history.



Elizabeth Patterson and Robert Wagner

According to Susan Garske, Chair of Benicia's Arts and Culture Commission, "I want to thank Lee Syracuse, known as Mr. Benicia, for donating these tiles to the city and Al Gomes, the executor of Mr Syracuse's estate, for presenting these tiles for the benefit and enjoyment for all who live here in Benicia or who visit our town to see our history presented in such an incredibly beautiful expression of art." - *Library*



Christina Strawbridge, Elizabeth Patterson, Jan Radesky, Susan Garske and others attend unveiling.

SAFETY TIP & INFORMATION FROM THE BUILDING DIVISION: According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 15,000 fires are sparked every year by clothes dryers. Lint and other debris can build up in your dryer vent, reducing air flow and creating a fire hazard.



The first sign that you might have a clogged vent is when your dryer stops drying your clothes in one cycle; the leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them. Lint accumulation and reduced airflow feed on each other to provide conditions ripe for a fire. Lint is a highly combustible material; dryer vents that are too long and/or have too many bends can result in lint buildup.

When it comes to dryer vents, shorter and straighter is better. The dryer duct should vent to the exterior and in no case should it vent to the attic or crawlspace. Avoid the use of inside heat recovery diverter valves or termination boxes, which do not comply with current standards. Disconnect, clean and inspect the dryer duct run on a regular basis, or hire a professional company to clean the dryer duct. This will reduce the fire hazard, increase the dryer's efficiency and increase its lifespan. – *Community Development*

BUS HUB UPDATE: The construction contractor building the Bus Hub Park and Ride lot at the intersection of Park Road and Industrial Way has been paving Park Road between Industrial Way and Sulphur Springs Creek last week and this week, weather permitting. There will be traffic delays and flaggers directing traffic so drivers may want to avoid the construction area.



PG&E is scheduled to provide electrical service for the parking lot lights on Thursday night and Friday morning. Once the pavement striping is complete, the park and ride lot will be open for use. It is estimated that the project will be substantially complete in November. – *Public Works*

GREAT SHAKEOUT: Thursday, October 20 at 10:20 AM was the annual Great ShakeOut earthquake preparedness drill. A reminder to Drop, Cover, and Hold On during an earthquake. Earthquakes can happen at any time. The main goal of the ShakeOut is to get prepared for the next major earthquake, and learn what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. Please visit www.earthquakecountry.org/sevensteps for tips on how to prepare, protect, and recover. – *Fire Department*

WHAT TO DO DURING AN EARTHQUAKE



Proper cover means you are on the floor on your knees, face buried in your knees with your arms protecting the sides of your face as your hands are hanging onto the furniture to prevent moving. This strategy also protects you from imploding glass shards flying through the room. If you are not near a desk or table to use as cover, drop to the floor against the interior wall and use anything that can protect your head and neck like a book, bag or your hands interlaced covering your neck with your face buried into your knees.

CAUTION!

NO DOORWAYS. Standing in a doorway leaves you extremely exposed, especially to flying glass.

NO RUNNING. Panic kills, you can't outrun an earthquake, and you're probably running past good cover.

DO NOT USE 'TRIANGLE OF LIFE'. This method is not approved and has been proven to be very dangerous. It leaves the individual exposed to falling and flying debris with no protection.

VISIT DISASTERSURVIVALSKILLS.COM
FOR MORE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TIPS



New magazine subscriptions are available at the Benicia Public Library. Stop by and read them for free! - *Library*



CURRENT LIBRARY STATISTICS:

- Total September visitors: 17,357
- Record Day of visitors on September 21 with 869 visitors
- September Internet sessions: 2,737
- Wireless Internet Sessions: 2,145
- Library Adult & Teen Facebook views: 20,845

-*Library*

KUDOS FOR BENICIA: The City of Benicia won a prestigious award presented at the annual League of California Cities conference:



Spotlight Award for Community Greenhouse Gas Reductions

	REDUCTION	LEVEL
American Canyon	8%	Silver
Hermosa Beach	8%	Silver
Davis	7%	Silver
Benicia	6%	Silver
Solana Beach	5%	Silver



SILVER BEACON AWARDS

BENICIA

- Agency Energy Savings: Gold, 18%*
- Agency Natural Gas Savings: Silver 10%*
- Agency Greenhouse Gas Reductions: Platinum, 21%*
- Community Greenhouse Gas Reductions: Silver, 6%*
- Sustainability Best Practices: Platinum*

The [Beacon Program](#) provides a framework for local governments to share best practices that create healthier, more vibrant and sustainable communities. The program honors voluntary efforts by local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy and adopt policies that promote sustainability.

The Beacon Program is sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative. The Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) is an alliance to help cities and counties reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy. SEEC is a collaboration between three statewide non-profit organizations and California’s four Investor Owned Utilities.

The Beacon Program is funded in part by California utility ratepayers through the Public Goods Charge, levied under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission and administered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison, and Southern California Gas Company. – *City Manager’s Office*



BAG OF BOOKS SALE: Friends of the Library are hosting a Bag of Books Sale on **Saturday, November 12**, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at Benicia Public Library. Come to the book sale in the basement, fill a grocery bag with books, dvds, magazines and more and pay just \$5.00 per bag! Just take the path between the Library and the Civic Center Park to the back of the Library to enter the basement. - *Library*

FRAUD PREVENTION PRESENTATION: Detective Fred Ayala recently presented a discussion on fraud and current financial scams to Sons In Retirement, or SIRs, men's group of Vallejo. The well-received and informative presentation was made at a luncheon before



approximately 62 members at the Vallejo Veterans Hall. Detective Ayala handed out information on how to guard against scams and fraud prevention.

SIRs is an organization of retirement groups for men in Northern and Central California. SIRs [branch 88's](#) members are from Vallejo, Benicia and American Canyon area of Solano County. It has approximately 100 members aged 50s to 90s. They meet monthly, usually in Vallejo. SIRs groups assist men in making new friends through SIRs activities. Membership is open to

men retired from full-time occupation, regardless of age, race, color or religion. – *Police Department*

Pinky Bear's Night at the Library

Benicia Public Library 150 East L St., Benicia, CA 94510
707-746-4343 <http://www.benicialibrary.org>

TEDDY BEAR SLEEPOVER AT THE LIBRARY: Benicia Public Library invites children to bring their teddy bear or other stuffed animal for a storytime on **Tuesday, November 15**, at 6:30 PM, then leave them to stay overnight at the Library while you go home to sleep.

Pick them up the next day after the Library opens, and you'll find out what they did while the Library was closed! - *Library*



PROUD OF OUR SAFE EMPLOYEES: The City of Benicia recently held its Benicia Employee Safety Advisory Committee (BENSAC) Awards recognizing city employees for years of injury free service. Awards are given for one-year of injury free work and each five-year increment thereafter. Those receiving awards this year received BENSAC Safety Award Certificates, as well as, an American Red Cross emergency preparation kits. Awards for the most years of safe service (and a deluxe kit) went to Alan Hodges, Todd Baumgartner, Kelly Botello and Sharon Williams. Congratulations go to all of our employees who make working safe a top priority. – *Human Resources*



Alan Hodges-30 Year Safety Award



*Todd Baumgartner
25 Year Safety Award*



Kelly Botello & Sharon Williams-25 Year Safety Award

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



THINKING OF GOING SOLAR? Did you know the City of Benicia will pay you up to \$1,000 towards your purchase? To learn more about the Residential Solar Rebate program [click here](#). – *Community Development*

OPEN HOUSE A SUCCESS: Thanks to all for making 2016 Benicia Fire Department Open House another success! The weather cooperated and they had a great turnout. The Fire Department appreciates all of the participants and community members who came out to spend some time with them, and they're already looking forward to next year! Below are photos from the day. – *Fire Department*



BENICIA FIRE DEPARTMENT
2016 OPEN HOUSE
THANK YOU TO OUR PARTICIPANTS! 

- * Benicia Police Department - Motor & K-9 * 9-1-1 Dispatchers *
- * United States Coast Guard * Solano County Search & Rescue *
- * PG&E * Family Resource Center * CHP *
- * REACH Air Medical * Benicia Emergency Response Team (BERT) *
- * Jump Jump & Away Jump House *
- * Benicia Amateur Radio Club (BARC) *
- * Benicia Volunteer Firefighters * Praxair * Medic Ambulance *
- * California Conservation Corps * Masquerade Face Painting *
- * IAFF Local 1186 Firefighters * Benicia Explorers * Benicia Reserves *
- * Jump Jump & Away Jump House *

Special thanks to the following for donating their time:

- Benicia Boy Scouts Troop 007
- Benicia High School Leadership Class
- Ryan Ankerstjerne, Ann, Therese, and Tony Dunleavy
- Fwaak & Gia Manzoor



STAND AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Members of [Soroptimist International of Benicia](#) took a stand against domestic violence at their annual 30 minute Domestic Violence Awareness Vigil on October 12 in front of City Park. Joining them were City of Benicia staff, elected officials and candidates for elected office. – *City Attorney*



~ 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. 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