



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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November 3, 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 am passing along information from our Public Works Department and asking you to think about what you and your family would do in a storm or flood:

Though water restrictions have loosened, California is still in a long-term drought. More than 20 percent of the state — mainly in the southern half — is still in exceptional drought. Over 40 percent is in extreme drought.



Drought-busting hope always lurks as we approach winter, and this year is no exception. How much rain will California get? Last year we were talking about El Niño, this year we are talking about La Niña. El Niño helped California with a little more rain last year, but La Niña tends to create a wavier jet stream pattern, which favors the northern states with more precipitation than the southern states. That kind of bisects California into wet northern and dry southern regions.

Knowing this change in weather, we should make preparations for the possibility of large storms and coastal/bay flooding. Storms in California sometimes can cause flooding, mud slides, landslides, flash floods, electrical outages and other impacts. Taking steps to prepare yourself and your family for winter storms and coastal/bay flooding will help protect our households, our communities and our state.

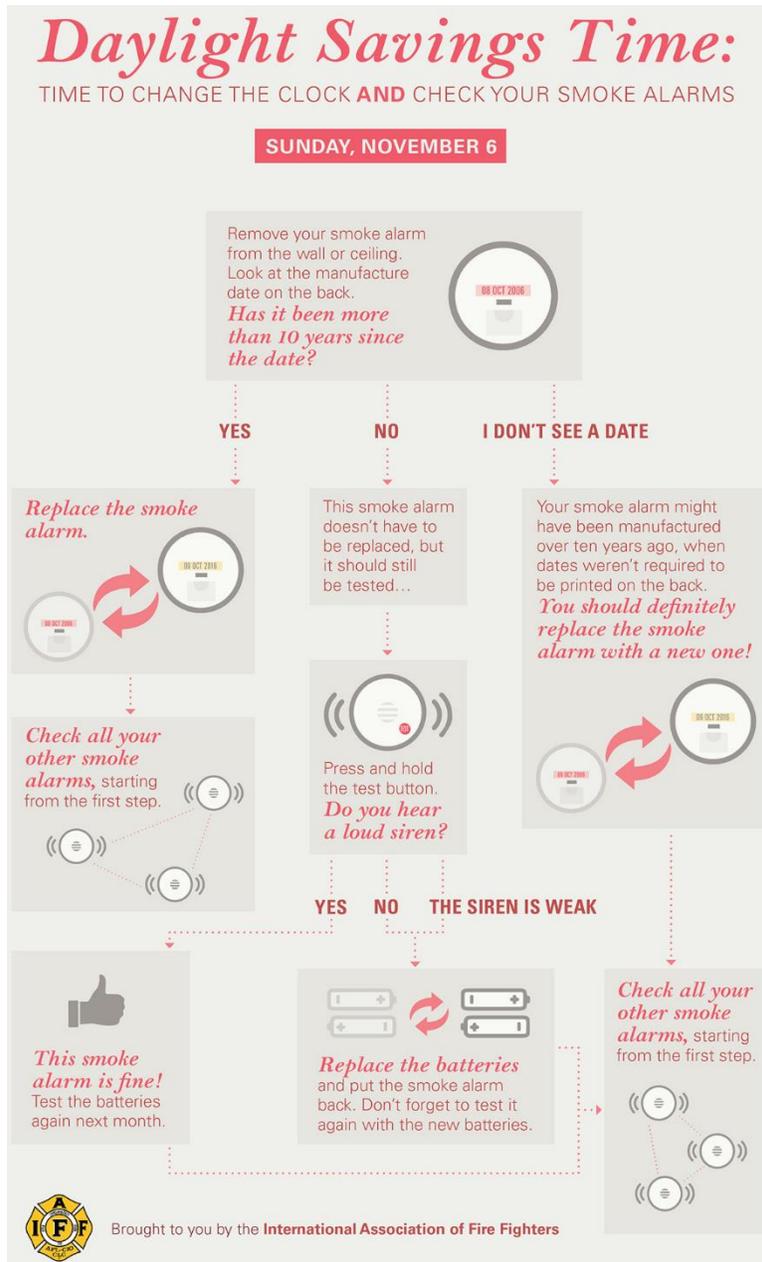
Information on [Storms.CA.Gov](http://Storms.CA.Gov) updates weather conditions and shares what Californians can also do to prepare.

The City of Benicia also has information at the Public Works Department's [Winter Storm Preparedness](#) web page. We encourage you to start preparing now. – *City Manager*

**CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS,  
CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES:**

**Sunday, November 6** is the end of Daylight Savings Time when you turn your clocks back one hour. It is also the semi-annual reminder that changing your smoke alarm batteries can save your life. You are encouraged to check your smoke detectors and change the batteries when changing your clocks.

Check this helpful diagram at right, then stop by Fire Station 11 (150 Military West) or Station 12 (601 Hastings Drive) during regular business hours to get free batteries for your smoke alarms. Limits may apply. – *Fire Department*



**NOVEMBER HOLIDAY CLOSURES:** Benicia City Offices, the Benicia Community Center and the Benicia Public Library will be closed on **Friday, November 11** in observance of Veteran's Day and on **November 24 & 25** in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Requests for emergency water and sewer service may be made at the Benicia Police Department, 200 East L Street or 707.745.3411. – *City Manager's Office*

**BENICIA WATER REUSE PROJECT PROGRESS:** The Benicia Water Reuse Project reached two important milestones in October, with the release of the final draft Feasibility Study and final environmental review document, the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND).

The Feasibility Study is an engineering report that describes the technical specifications for the project. It contains the water quality targets required for the project, the needed upgrades at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), a new pipeline to the Benicia Valero Refinery, and a new storage tank. The projected pipeline route between the WWTP and refinery is shown on the attached map. Once the Feasibility Study is finalized by City and Valero staff, it will be submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as part of the Proposition 1 Grant and Loan application process. It is anticipated that the "Technical Package" will be submitted by the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about the Project, the Feasibility Study is available on the Public Works Department's [Water Reuse Project web page](#).



The City's consultants also performed an environmental review of the project's potential impacts on the environment, which are summarized in the IS/MND. The IS/MND was released for public comment in mid-September, and a legal advertisement was placed in the Benicia Herald. The IS/MND was distributed to the State Clearinghouse, Solano County, and the Benicia Library.

There were articles in the Benicia and Vallejo newspapers about the IS/MND being available for comments, and the comment period closed with only one comment letter from Valero. The City Council will be asked to adopt the IS/MND at their November 15 meeting. If the IS/MND is adopted, it will then be sent to the SWRCB as part of an "Environmental Package".

The last step for City staff to complete in the Proposition 1 Grant and Loan application process is to submit a "Financial Package", which shows how the City is going to pay for the Project. The City and Valero must negotiate a "User Agreement" before the SWRCB will execute a Grant and Loan Agreement. It is unknown at this time if and when City and Valero staff can execute a "User Agreement".

If the \$27 million Project is built, then the City could reduce water purchases from the State Water Project and Solano Project by 1.9 million gallons per day and reduce annual water use by 20% to 25%. This would significantly improve water supply reliability for both the City and Valero Benicia Refinery.

For questions or comments on this project, please contact Graham Wadsworth, Public Works Director, at 707.746.4240 or [gwadsworth@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:gwadsworth@ci.benicia.ca.us). – Public Works

**HOLIDAY PATROLS ANNOUNCED:** Benicia Police Chief Erik Upson announces holiday patrols every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in December. This means a greater police presence on foot and in vehicles on First Street, Southampton Shopping Center, and Columbus Parkway shopping centers. Funding is through the realignment monies distributed by Solano County Sheriff Tom Ferrara, a great partner of the City of Benicia and the Benicia Police Department.

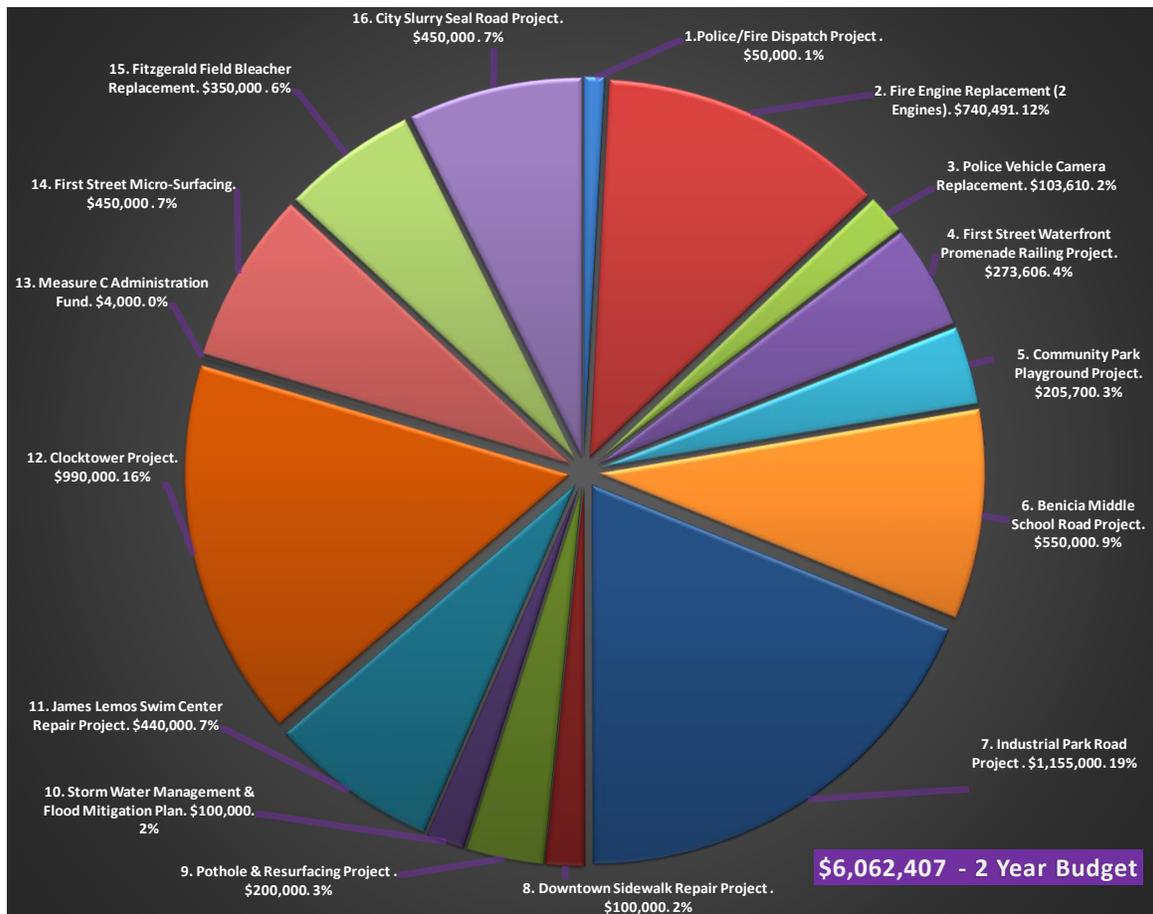


Questions or comments should be directed to Chief Upson at 707.746.4265 or [EUpson@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:EUpson@ci.benicia.ca.us). – Police Department

**UPDATE ON MEASURE C:** A little over two years ago Benicia voters approved Measure C: Benicia’s Quality of Life Measure. This measure was a local 1 cent on the dollar sales tax. Measure C was crucial to the City of Benicia being able to continue to maintain City services that residents have prioritized. Without the passage of Measure C the City would have had to cut \$1.7 million out of our operating budget.

Because of Benicia voter’s support of Measure C, the City was able to maintain its service levels in, among other things, police, fire and recreation. In addition to maintaining key services, Measure C allowed the City to address equipment and infrastructure needs in roads, parks and public safety. More information is available on the [City’s website](#).

It can never be said too much, THANK YOU voters! – Economic Development



**CANDIDATE FORUM CANCELLED:** The Candidates Forum scheduled for Saturday, November 5 has been cancelled by unanimous decision of all the candidates.



Candidates for Mayor and City Council in the City of Benicia had the opportunity to deliver the “Final Word” to voters at a televised Candidates Forum before the election to address any last minute “hit pieces” circulated the last two weeks of the election. The City Attorney, on behalf of the Open Government Commission, thanks the candidates for running a clean campaign. – *City Attorney’s Office*

**November 8th, 2016 - Presidential General Election:** Polls will be open 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM. You may drop of your absentee ballot at your own or any polling location that day. For information on polling locations, voter registration status, elections results, and more, go the [Solano County Registrar of Voters](#) website. – *City Clerk*

**STREET RESURFACING PROGRAM APPROVED:** Benicia City Council recently approved over \$4 million in funding for road work for 2017, the largest single allocation in over a decade!

At the October 18 City Council meeting, Council Members voted unanimously to approve the use of funds from the Gas Tax, Solid Waste

| 2017 Resurface/Reconstruct Streets | Limits                                                                              |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Southampton Road                   | 400' east of Panorama Dr to Military West                                           |
| Industrial Way                     | Lake Herman Road to Teal Street                                                     |
| Teal Drive                         | Industrial Way to Mallard Dr                                                        |
| East O Street                      | West of East 3rd Street to East 5 <sup>th</sup> Street                              |
| St. Augustine Drive                | East 2nd Street to East 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street                                      |
| Panorama Court                     | Panorama Dr to end                                                                  |
| Merlin Court                       | Panorama Dr to end                                                                  |
| First Street microsurfacing        | K Street to waterfront                                                              |
| Pavement Seal Project              | Approximately 700,000 to 1.4 million square feet (SF) on four lane miles of streets |

Agreement, and Measure C for the City Wide Street Resurfacing Program. Several pavement rehabilitation projects are proposed in 2017 as part of the Citywide Street Resurfacing Program with an estimated budget of \$4.4 million in Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and Fiscal Year 2017-2018. This is less than the \$4.8 million needed, but is the largest project in the last five years. After the bidding process, work is expected to begin in April 2017 and run through October. A list of the projects for 2017 is shown.

To read the Citywide Street Resurfacing Program agenda item in more detail, [click here](#).

[Click here](#) to see a list of streets with a PCI of 20% or less scheduled to be included in this repair.

If you have questions or comments on the Street Resurfacing Program, please contact the Public Works Department at 707.746.4240 or email the Director at [gwadsworth@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:gwadsworth@ci.benicia.ca.us). – *Public Works*

**SIREN SYSTEM - MONTHLY TESTING RESUMES:** Did you hear sirens on Wednesday morning?

After recent upgrades to the community's siren system and mass notification system, the City of Benicia resumed testing its sirens the first Wednesday of each month at 11:00 AM. Residents are reminded that this is just a test and that they should not call 9-1-1. Any questions about the sirens should be directed to [firedept@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:firedept@ci.benicia.ca.us) or 707.746.4275.



The City's system consists of seven (7) sirens located throughout the community. These sirens may be activated individually or citywide to alert the community of an emergency. The sirens were previously tested on the first Wednesday of each month and resumed on Wednesday, November 2.

In the event of a “real” activation of the siren system, information and instructions associated with the activation of the sirens may be accessed by viewing Benicia TV (BTV), or by accessing the City’s website ([www.ci.benicia.ca.us](http://www.ci.benicia.ca.us)). BTV can be viewed on the various networks available: Comcast Cable channel 27 & AT&T U-verse channel 99.

The City of Benicia, as well as both the Fire and Police Departments provide non-emergency information via social media. We encourage you to follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

In addition, the City of Benicia now uses AlertBenicia 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. Please register today at [www.AlertBenicia.org](http://www.AlertBenicia.org). – *Fire Department*

**P**RESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK RESULTS: On Saturday, October 22, the Benicia Police Department’s Prescription Drug Take-Back event took place and resulted in 172 Benicia residents dropped off a total of 350 lbs. of expired or unused prescription drugs!

Collect and save your unused and expired prescription drugs for the next event, which will be held in the spring 2017. – *Police Department*



## PERSONNEL NEWS:

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

[Parks Landscape Building Maintenance Worker](#), full-time, closing 11/04/16

[Mechanic](#), full-time, closing 11/08/16

[Human Resources Assistant](#), full-time, closing 11/13/16

[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*

**Fond Farewell:** Jose Lustan, a mechanic with 19 years of dedicated Public Works service for the City of Benicia retired on October 31. He began working for the City on May 5, 1997. Jose is well known for his very friendly attitude with everyone he meets. His expertise of vehicles and equipment will be missed. – *Public Works*



**Welcome to Public Works:** Community Development Director Christina Radcliffe is pleased to announce the hiring of Renata Di Battista. Renata holds both a B.A. in Environmental Planning and a B.S. in Biological Sciences from the State University of New York system. During her five years in municipal planning with the City of Aztec in New Mexico and the City of Indio in southern California, she specialized in current planning and CEQA issues. Renata is thrilled to be returning to public service from the private sector, where she recently spent two years as a biological consultant with H.T. Harvey & Associates at solar project sites. Renata is currently finishing her M.Sc. in Biodiversity, Wildlife, and Ecosystem Health.

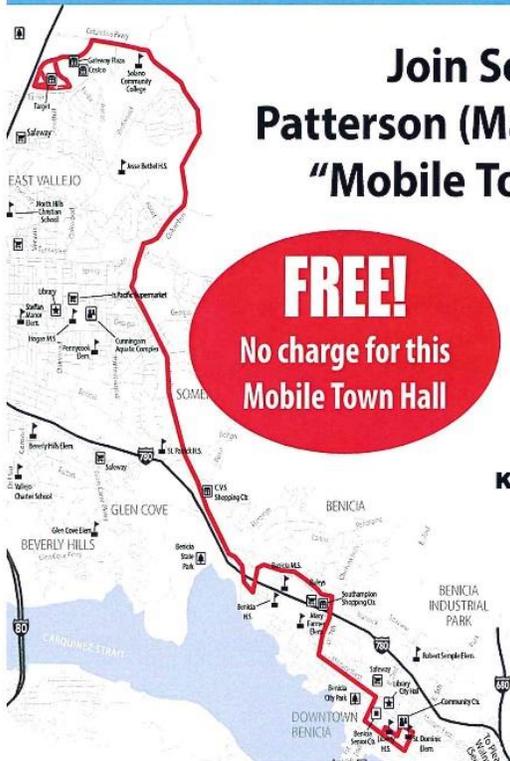
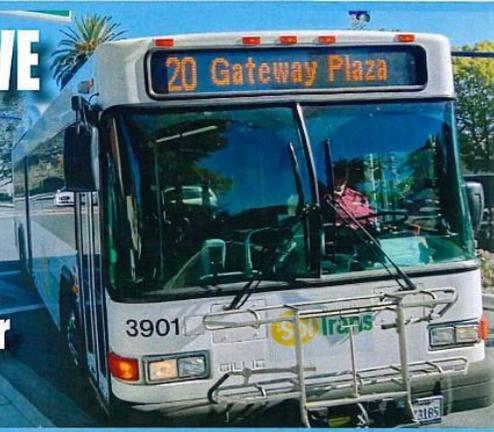


A huge fan of outdoor recreation, Renata spends most of her free time hiking and camping with her Border collie, Tesla, as well as kayaking and open water swimming.

Please join us in welcoming Renata to the City of Benicia family and wishing Jose well in his future endeavors. – *City Manager*

# SolTrans ROUTE 20

**HELP US KEEP AND IMPROVE  
THE ROUTE 20 & OTHER  
SOLTRANS SERVICES!**  
We want your feedback and  
suggestions for improving your  
local transit system.



**Join SolTrans Chairperson, Elizabeth  
Patterson (Mayor of Benicia), and staff for a  
“Mobile Town Hall” on the Route 20 Bus.**

**FREE!**  
No charge for this  
Mobile Town Hall

**Friday, November 4, 2016,  
10:45 - 11:25 a.m.**

**\*Starting (Meeting) Point: Rancho Benicia  
Bus Stop, Corner of 3rd and H Streets, Benicia**  
**Kindly RSVP by Friday, 10/28/2016, if you plan to  
attend to Agnes: 707-736-6990 or  
Agnes@soltransride.com**

*\*All members of the public are invited to participate and may board/  
alight the bus free of charge at any designated bus stop along the  
Route 20 for this event. A special shuttle will be provided at the Sereno  
Transit Center at approximately 11:25 a.m. for anyone who needs to  
return to their bus stop of origin along the Route 20 at that time.*

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

**Wastewater Treatment Plant- Projects:**

There were multiple projects during the month of September for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. A new concrete floor was poured to reconfigure the sump in the pump well for the toxic diversion holding basins. Public Works Maintenance division staff assisted Wastewater Treatment Plant staff with preparation work and plant staff handled the rest.



*Help from PW Maintenance Division*



*Confined space entry to concrete pour job*



*Smoothing and sloping concrete*



*Maintenance on barscreen at headworks*

Staff completed several major maintenance jobs on equipment at the headworks, which is the first process to remove large solids from incoming wastewater. This equipment receives regular monthly maintenance, but larger maintenance is required every 2 years, and the repair process can be much more involved. Treatment plant staff were tasked with replacing a process liquid drain line which had failed and needed replacement. The following are some pictures that illustrate some of the work being done on various projects at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

*(con't)*



*Maintenance on washer screens at headworks to WWTP*



*Installation of new drain line at odor scrubber*

Several projects were performed on the odor scrubber's. This process scrubs air with chemicals and then uses activated carbon to neutralize and filter any remaining odors before discharging it as clean air. The carbon in the process will deactivate over a period of time and needs replacing every 5 to 10 years at a cost of \$33,000. A company specializing in this work was contracted to replace 20,000 pounds of the old carbon and with the help of staff the work was completed in one day, while working safely and efficiently ensuring compliance with regional air quality regulations.



*Inside empty activated carbon tower*



*Odor scrubber carbon tower*

### **Wastewater Treatment Plant - Maintenance:**

Wastewater Treatment Plant personnel successfully completed 76 preventative maintenance work orders, and 16 corrective maintenance work orders.

### **WWTP Plant Performance:**

The Wastewater Treatment Plant processed 52.74 million gallons of wastewater last month with no exceedances of the discharge permit. Nutrient pollution removal was 98% for BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand), and 99% for TSS (Total Suspended Solids). This information was determined by Water Quality Laboratory personnel performing 1,455 analyses on 305 samples, using 52 different test methods. The bioassay test passed with a 95% survival rate.

This information is transmitted electronically to the State Water Resources Control Board through the California Integrated Water Quality System and available at [www.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs). – Public Works

**OFFICER OF THE YEAR:** On Friday, October 21, Detective MarJonne Roberson was honored as Benicia Police Department's Officer of the Year, receiving his award at the Night of Honor hosted by the Solano Rotary Club.

Officer Roberson is a Youth Services Detective and School Resource Officer at the Benicia High School and has gone above and beyond his duties to serve this community. He's well loved and respected by the school staff and students. Congratulations Officer Roberson! – *Police Department*



*Officer Roberson (c) with Chief Upson (r).*

**SISTER CITY PARTNERSHIP GOING STRONG:** The Benicia Fire Department's Sister City partnership with Tula, Mexico is still going strong. Pictured are the Benicia Sister Cities Association (BTSCA), Tula-Benicia Sister Cities Association (TBSCA), Eliseo Segura (Tula Fire Chief), and Gadoth Tapia (Mayor of Tula) receiving donated fire equipment. The Department is pleased to know this equipment will be put to good use!



Also included is a picture of a Brush Truck donated by the Fire Department in 1990, my how time flies! – *Fire Department*

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



## CARE ENOUGH TO WEAR PINK:

Throughout the month of October, the Benicia Fire Department was wearing limited edition t-shirts to support and celebrate "Breast Cancer Awareness" Month. They traded in normal duty t-shirts for pink.



If you're interested in getting your own and joining in the cause, a limited number are available for purchase at Station #11, stop in or call Stacy or Gina during normal business hours at 707.746.4275. The t-shirts are \$25.00 each. All proceeds will be donated to the "Pink Heals" Pink Fire Engine of Solano County. Thanks everyone for all of your support and caring to the cause! – *Fire Department*



### ~ CONTACT INFORMATION ~

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[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