



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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NOVEMBER 17, 2015

The *City Manager's Report* from City of Benicia City Manager Brad Kilger 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 List](#) at the end of this report.

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**F**LAGS AT HALF-STAFF: Did you notice U.S. flags are at half-staff? In respect to victims of the attack in Paris, France:

### BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA A PROCLAMATION

The American people stand with the people of France. Friday's terror attacks were not just an attack on Paris; they were an attack on all humanity and the universal values we share, including the bonds of liberty, equality, and fraternity. These values will endure far beyond any terrorists or their hateful vision. The United States and our allies do not give in to fear, nor will we be divided, nor will anyone change our way of life. We will do whatever it takes, working with nations and peoples around the world, to bring the perpetrators of these attacks to justice, and to go after terrorists who threaten our people.



As a mark of respect for the victims of the senseless acts of violence perpetrated on November 13, 2015, in Paris, France, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby order that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the

District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset, November 19, 2015. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth. -BARACK OBAMA

**HOLIDAY CLOSURE:** Benicia City Offices, the Benicia Community Center and the Benicia Public Library will be closed **Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27** 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*



**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY:** The Saturday after Thanksgiving (**November 28**) is the day to skip the mall and shop small at your local, independent businesses. Benicia Main Street and the City of Benicia are sponsoring this year's event and invite you to spend your shopping dollars in Benicia and celebrate the local businesses that make our town unique.

Courtesy of American Express, the event sponsor, here's an example of what can happen when you spend your dollars locally:

A cycling enthusiast opens up a bike shop turning a dream into a reality. ► The owner hires locals to help run the shop. ► With the extra help, the business begins to take off. ► More sales could mean more local taxes received, which could fund things like better roads and parks... ► ...creating a neighborhood for cycling, which means better business for the local bike shop.

**Shopping Kick-Off:** [Benicia Main Street](#) is giving \$5.00 in Downtown Dollars to the first 30 shoppers who come into the Depot at 90 First Street that day at 11:00 AM.

**Giveaways:** Look for offers and fun giveaways like designer shopping bags. [Click here](#) for a list of participating downtown businesses and keep your shopping dollars local.

**Downtown Shopping Spree:** Don't forget, for every \$10 you spend at participating local businesses, you'll receive one ticket entry into the [Downtown Shopping Spree, November](#)

**1-December 3.** The winning ticket will be drawn on **Friday, December 4** at the Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting. The winner will receive \$500 in Downtown Dollars, which spends at more than 70 Benicia locations!

At left is the bulletin board outside the City Attorney's Office/Office of Economic Development at City Hall. It was created by Admin Clerk Serina Harbinger. – *Economic Development*



**NEW BENICIA BUSINESSES:** The following is a list of recent business license applications for new businesses or businesses with new locations or owners. Please stop by and make them feel welcome:

- **James McPherson, Attorney** – 111 West C St. Ste B
- **CK Cuts, DBA Best Cuts (new owner)** – 191 Military East
- **Twiggs Custom Wigs & Salon** – 414A Military East
- **NZilla** – 4271 Park Road (Online apparel sales and licensing, storage of premade garments.)

- *Economic Development*



**SAFE ROUTES WINS STA AWARD:** The City of Benicia received the 2015 Safety Project of the Year award at the Solano Transportation Authority annual Awards Dinner, which was held at the Benicia Clocktower on November 4. The Safe Routes to Schools Committee, comprised of staff from the Benicia School District, Benicia Police Department and Benicia Public Works Department, was commended for completing the design and construction of safe routes to school projects at three schools in Benicia within a 30 working day timeframe. The project improved access at Semple Elementary School, Matthew Turner Elementary School and Benicia Middle School and added new sidewalks, flashing beacons, sidewalk bulb outs, and high visibility crosswalks to improve children’s safety while walking and bicycling to school each day.

Benicia delivered the first safe routes to school project as part of the One Bay Area Grant Program. The project substantially improves student travel safety, gives children an opportunity to exercise, reduces traffic around the schools, and helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Solano Transportation Authority awards recognize individuals, programs, activities and projects that have contributed to the continued success in improving the quality of life in Solano County by delivering transportation projects to ensure mobility, travel safety, and economic vitality, according to the release. – *Public Works*

### **BENICIA MIDDLE SCHOOL**



*Before Safety Improvements*



*After Safety Improvements*

**FINANCIAL SOFTWARE UPDATE:** As the City moves closer to the conversion of its financial accounting software, Tyler Munis, staff has been busy creating the digital environment for the software. Tyler Munis ERP (enterprise resource planning) software is based on the SaaS model. Software as a Service (SaaS) is a software licensing and delivery model in which software is licensed on a subscription basis and is centrally hosted by Tyler. It is sometimes referred to as “on-demand Software” or “Cloud Computing”. This digital or cloud



environment is defined as “the practice of using a network of remote servers hosted on the Internet to store, manage, and process data, rather than a local server or a personal computer.” SaaS, cloud computing structure, allows access to information on multiple electronic devices, such as computers,

laptops, and tablets that have access to the Internet.

For the City’s ERP, Tyler Munis will host the software remotely, at their site, and City staff will be able to reach the data whether they are at the office or out in the field. For example, Building Inspectors will be able to see parcel permits while out at a job site. The internet platform also provides faster data sharing and more reliability than on premise servers. This allows the facilities throughout the City to input and retrieve financial transactions with more efficiency.

Because of the cloud's very nature as a shared resource, information security, identity management, privacy, access control, and reliability are a natural concern. However, the basic concerns are the same as in traditional computing: To ensure that the City’s data is accurate and accessible only to authorized individuals. For the past month, Tyler Munis and the City’s Information Technology (IT) department have been establishing the securities around the data that is being transmitted via the Internet. Together, both Tyler and the City, have created the necessary firewalls and encryption of the data that is passing through this “cloud” environment. In addition, the software requires a reliable internet connection, the IT department has been creating duplicative services so that if one Internet provider goes down, the City will continue working on the alternative service. – *Finance Department*

**GALLERY EXHIBIT:** The latest exhibit at the Marilyn Citron O’Rourke Gallery at the Benicia Public Library (150 East L Street) is *Material Matters* by Threads of Change.net, a fiber art collective of seven artists. The exhibit runs **November 23, 2015 - January 9, 2016**. You are invited to the reception for the artists on **Sunday, December 6, 1:00-4:00 PM**. Here is an example of their work. - *Library*



## PERSONNEL NEWS:

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

- [Seasonal Park Worker](#), part--time
- [Police Officer - Lateral \(Currently Working\)](#), full-time, open continuously
- [Police Officer - Academy / Non-Lateral](#), full-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 Police Officer:** Chief Erik Upson is proud to welcome the newest member of the Benicia Police Department, Officer Chris Siglin. Officer Siglin has 5 years prior law enforcement experience. He graduated from the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Academy in 2010 and began his law enforcement career at Napa State Hospital as an officer and then moved on to work for Pismo Beach Police Department. He spent the last 2 ½ years there as a patrol officer with additional assignments as a member of the regional SWAT Team, as a Field Training Officer, and as a bike patrol officer.

A native of the Concord/Clayton area, Chris is glad to be back in the Bay Area. He is an avid motorcyclist with an extensive background in road racing and is also a huge fan of ice hockey after playing many years and enjoys the San Jose Sharks.

Chris is excited to begin working at Benicia PD on November 30. – *Police Department*



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



**WALK-IN FLU SHOTS UPDATE:** A walk in flu shot clinic was offered at the Benicia Senior Center on Wednesday, October 7. All ages were welcome and this service was offered for FREE. The flu shots were provided by Solano County Public Health Immunization Program. They administered approximately 150 flu shots. – *Parks & Community Services*

**HOLIDAY FUN IN BENICIA:** Nothing says happy holidays like good old-fashioned hometown fun in Benicia. Start with [Lindsay Art Glass](#), where you can make your own ornaments or surprise your special someone with a date night of glass blowing. Looking for more? From shopping to tea parties, tree lighting to artist open studios, information to make the most of your holidays is in our [latest blog](#). – *Economic Development*



**YOU NEVER KNOW!** You can run into City of Benicia employees anywhere. Recently, Todd Baumgartner, Andy Morris & Corby Selzer, and Heather McLaughlin ran into each other in Disneyland and captured the moment as proof. – *City Attorney*

**OCTOBER HALLOWEEN LUNCHEON AT THE SENIOR CENTER:** The Parks & Community Services Department hosted a Halloween luncheon at the Senior Center for active older adults and seniors on Wednesday, October 21. The lunch was catered by Venticellos Ristorante Italiano and over 60 people attend.

They will be celebrating their Thanksgiving luncheon on **Wednesday, November 18** with a traditional Thanksgiving feast catered by Nine 0 Seven Grill. If you, or someone you know, is interested in attending please call or stop by the Parks & Community Services Department at the Benicia Community Center, 370 East L Street or 707.746.4285. - *Parks & Community Services*



**GREAT BOOKS FOR GIFTING:** The Benicia Public Library invites you to *An Evening with Ron Shoop of Random House Books* on **Thursday, December 10** at 7:00 PM in the Library's Dona Benicia Room. Come and get ideas about books for gift giving and your personal reading, and learn a bit about the book business as well, from someone who has been in the biz since 1968.



The Library is lucky to have Ron Shoop as their Random House book rep. He has been coming to the Library for about 5 years giving fabulous book talks. Ron spent several years in retail under Fred Cody in Berkeley, worked in wholesale for 23 years, and has been a book rep for the last 18 years. He sells and markets Random House books, the world's largest English language trade publisher, to northern California independent bookstores and works with local libraries. Ron knows books!

To help you with your gift giving list, [Bookshop Benicia](#) will be on hand with books you can purchase. – *Library*

**CITIZENS' ACADEMY AT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT:** The Benicia Fire Department welcomed the current Citizens' Academy class on Wednesday, November 4. Students were given an overview of the department, its personnel and functions. The Academy included a tour of Fire Station 11, an overview of the use of cardiac monitors, a lesson in the apparatus they use, and a hands-on vehicle extrication.



Thanks to the crews at both Station 11 and Station 12 for making this a successful event! And thanks to our citizens for a great class! – *Fire Department*

If you're interested in being a member of one of the upcoming Citizens' Academy classes, contact [Library Director Diane Smikahl](#) by email or call 707.746.4343. – *City Manager*

**BENICIA POLICE DISCUSS FRAUD AND SCAMS WITH SENIOR CITIZENS:** On August 20 and November 11, Detective Fred Ayala presented information to senior citizens at the Benicia Public Library and Rancho Benicia on current fraud and phone call scams. Presentations covered the following topics:

- Identity Theft
- Credit Card Fraud
- Bank Fraud / Financial Crimes
- False Identity Theft from Mail Theft
- Computer / Internet Fraud & Scams
- Phone Call Scams, such as the recent: IRS, Sheriff's Office, FBI and Jury Duty Warrant scams where they ask to send in money in lieu of being arrested
- Lottery scams



Detective Ayala provided tips and security measures that the community can use to help prevent these crimes. Included in these tips was contact information to the three credit reporting bureaus, the US Postal Inspector, and the Benicia Police Department. During these presentations volunteer members were run through an open public information web site ([ThatsThem.com](#)) to show the audience how much personal information is accessible to anyone with internet access. Pamphlets and business cards were handed out. – *Police Department*

**BENICIA YOUTH COMMISSION UPDATE:** The Benicia Youth Commission (BYC) is busy planning for their 2015-2016 school year. It is a great group of students from our community attending Benicia High School and Benicia Middle School that are participating in the Youth Commission this year. Elections took place at their second meeting and they are happy to have Jennie Dilley as their acting Chairperson for the school year. She has participated in BYC for more than 4 years and is a senior at BHS. Along with Jennie, Isabelle Briseno was elected as Vice Chairperson, Sophia Briseno as Secretary, Elena Brown as Treasurer, Meghan Barrett and Miranda Jacobson as BHS Community Affairs officers, Alyssa Ballinger and Marie Markus as BMS Community Affairs officers and Madison Morgan as our Historian officer. They will be very busy this month planning events and community service projects for the upcoming year. The City is fortunate to have an energetic group of youth that want to volunteer and give back to our community. For questions on the Benicia Youth Commission, contact [Lindsay Dion](#), Recreation Supervisor and BYC Advisor by email or call 707.746.4771.



Twenty-one Benicia Youth Commission members placed over 150 American flags at the City Cemetery on Friday, November 6 in honor of Veteran’s Day. Commissioners lined the center aisle of the cemetery, placed flags throughout the grass and also placed flags on individual graves of veterans. The group’s intent was that the flags created a warm welcome to families visiting the cemetery over the holiday weekend as well as honoring our Military Veterans. – *Parks & Community Services*



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CONTACT INFORMATION

The *City Manager's Report* from City of Benicia City Manager Brad Kilger 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/Human Resources/I.T./City Clerk: 707.746.4200

City Attorney: 707.746.4216

Community Development: 707.746.4280

Economic Development: 707.746.4202

Finance Department: 707.746.4225

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