



February 10, 2023

**SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER**

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**Important Numbers Resources and Dates**

**District 2 Office**

(707) 784-3031

**Clerk of the Board & County Administrator's Office**

(707) 784-6100

**Veterans Services**

(707) 784-6590

**Health & Social Services**

(707) 784-8400

**Assessor/Recorder**

(707) 784-6200

**Resource Management**

(707) 784-6765

**Registrar of Voters**

(707) 784-6675

**Honoring Wilson Riles**



This Friday, I want to celebrate Wilson Riles. He was the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction (1971-1983). He was the first Black man to be elected to a statewide office in California. He was also the first Black man in the nation to be elected State Superintendent of Schools.

Wilson attended Arizona State Teachers College in 1936. In 1940, he graduated with a major in education and a minor in history. He served in the Army Air Corps during WWII. He then returned to the Flagstaff College to obtain a Master's degree in school administration in 1947.

A program implemented by Superintendent Riles still in use today is the School Improvement Program (SIP), which formalized the process of bringing teachers and parent together to evaluate school programs. SIP has changed over the years. I served on site councils as a parent. The goal of the program was to decentralize education, have more parent input, and add programs if the site council felt the need like music or arts. The idea was to provide the extra programs the parents and staff felt was needed for their kids. I do believe the purpose has been lost. Site councils were designed to be bottom up not top down.

In 1978 Proposition 13 passed. By the end of Riles' term in office, the funding for schools was diminished. In the mid-1960s California ranked 6th in the nation in per-pupil spending. By the

end of the 1970s it had fallen to 24th place.

In a 1979 speech against a proposed voucher plan, Mr. Riles made a touching defense for his inclusive approach to the state's education system: "Don't be duped into accepting spurious charges of failure [by public education] by those who would promote elitism and deviousness by destroying the foundation on which this country was built," he told the Commonwealth club audience in San Francisco. "If you neglect public education, if you let the zealots and the charlatans peddle their gimmicks and quick fixes, you may well...reap the whirlwind."

Superintendent Riles did so much more. I ask you to do a little bit of research on your own. He was my State Superintendent when I was teaching. He cared deeply for our students. He was a kind man. He epitomizes that a free public education is a way to improve your life. Everyone needs to be treated with dignity, respect and equal access to funding.

I worry that we have forgotten to care for others.

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## Information this week

### Reminder: County Buildings closed on Monday

All Solano County buildings will be closed Monday, February 13, 2023 for Lincoln's birthday. They will re-open Tuesday, February 14 at 8am.

### Info from the fentanyl town hall

In January, Solano Public Health helped to host three town halls about the dangers of fentanyl and how to prevent fentanyl overdoses. In case you missed these events, VibeSolano has provided some useful information and graphics to help you and your kids understand the fentanyl threat.



First, [view VibeSolano's mission](#) to educate the public about fentanyl and the opioid crisis and what they're doing to help prevent overdoses and provide information to the public. Then, [view these factsheets](#) about fentanyl to share with your kids - both English and Spanish are available. Finally, [take a look at this flyer](#) that includes tips and talking points for approaching conversations about fentanyl and opioids with your children. The organization has also provided a packet of student awareness materials that you can [view here](#) -

#### Tax Collector/Treasurer/County Clerk

(707) 784-7485

#### Area Agency on Aging

(707) 784-8960

#### U.S. Social Security

(800) 772-1213

#### SUICIDE PREVENTION

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE

800-273-8255

SPANISH LINE

888-628-9454

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

800-799-4889

FRIENDSHIP LINE FOR SENIORS

800-971-0016

CRISIS TEXT LINE

741741

THE TREVOR PROJECT FOR LGBTQ YOUTH

866-488-7386

TRANS LIFELINE PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

877-565-8860

please share these with the kids and students in your life to raise awareness.

The Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District has also outlined actions they've taken so far in response to the fentanyl crisis, which you can read [here](#).

## Home rehabilitation for veterans, seniors, and disabled homeowners



Rebuilding Together Solano County (RTSC) is now accepting applications for their home rehabilitation project. This free project aims to help bring safety and healthy living through home renovation and is open to low-income veterans and surviving veteran spouses, seniors, and

disabled people who own a home. If you or someone you know qualifies for this project, you are encouraged to apply. To read more about qualifications, view the flyer [here](#) or download the application [here](#). Applications will be accepted through **March 31, 2023**.

## Community needs assessment for California Human Development

As part of their bi-annual Community Action Plan, California Human Development is looking for responses to a survey to help identify and address the needs of low-income Californians. Your responses are vital in shaping their plans to help the community. Please fill out the survey [here](#). You may choose to have your responses remain anonymous.

## Benicia Historical Museum newsletter

The Benicia Historical Museum has just sent out their newsletter with updates on job and volunteer openings and events. You can check it out [here](#), but some highlights include:



**Summer job opportunity:** The museum is looking for summer camp counselors for Callie's Kids Camp 2023. To see experience requirements and to apply, click [here](#).

**Volunteers needed:** Interested in becoming a gallery docent, educational volunteer, or looking to work with collection management, facilities, or administration? Click [here](#) to learn how to become a volunteer for the museum today!

**Big Guns: The History and Preservation of Battery Townsley with John Martini:** Join John Martini, a former National Park

Ranger around parks in the Bay Area and lifelong researcher of California, as he discusses his work on preserving Battery Townsley. Purchase your tickets for the event on **Saturday, February 18 from 11:30am-12:30pm**, at the Benicia Historical Museum [here](#). Tickets are free for museum members or \$10 for non-members.

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## Public notices

### **Just announced: Proposed affordable housing bond measure**

The Bay Area Housing Finance Authority and Enterprise Community Partners have released a joint statement about their proposal for a \$10-\$20 billion bond measure to secure 32,944 affordable homes across the nine Bay Area counties. This regional bond measure, proposed for the 2024 ballot, would close the gap needed to ensure affordable housing projects are funded. Keep an eye out for more as the proposal develops. You can read the full press release [here](#).

### **CalTrans Middle-Mile broadband network receives permit**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Francisco has issued a permit to Caltrans authorizing the discharge of dredged or fill material into U.S. waters in order for Caltrans to continue work on the Broadband Middle Mile Initiative. This initiative will allow high-speed broadband service to reach more Californians and keep homes, businesses, and communities connected. You can read more about the permit [here](#). If you have any comments about the permit, you are encouraged to contact:

Gerardo Hidalgo

**Phone:** (805) 585-2145

**Email:** [Gerardo.L.Hidalgo@usace.army.mil](mailto:Gerardo.L.Hidalgo@usace.army.mil)

### **PG&E Undergrounding work plan**



To help prevent wildfires, PG&E will continue its effort to move more power lines underground through 2023. For Solano County, they are projecting 57 miles will be completed by the end of the year. To view a larger map of project sites, click [here](#).

## Updates from the CPUC

The California Public Utilities Commission has just published some new updates along with their monthly newsletter. Read the February edition [here](#), which contains info about the climate credit for high natural gas prices, a webinar on the draft Equity Initiatives and Clean Energy Access Grant Program, and more. To learn more about the webinar on **February 15 from 10am-12pm**, view the flyer [here](#).

Additionally, the CPUC keeps their website up-to-date with news and upcoming events. Visit their news and updates page [here](#), or see their upcoming events for February [here](#), including webinars, public forums, and voting meetings.

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## A final note this week...

### On Burt Bacharach



Burt Bacharach passed away this week on February 8 at age 94. Working with Hal David, his lyricist, their work was sung by Dionne Warwick, Aretha Franklin, Dusty Springfield, and many others. One of my favorite songs is "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head." Hal and Burt won an Academy Award for the song - watch the movie *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and you'll hear B.J. Thomas sing the song in the movie. I was able to see Mr. Bacharach in person at a concert in San Francisco Davies Hall several years ago. I love live orchestras. He shall be missed.

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## Looking for a job? Consider these links

If you or someone you know is looking for a job, please consider a career with Solano County. Click [HERE](#) to access the website and follow on Facebook [@SolanoCountyJobs](#). Please also consider these other employment resources, including:

[STATE OF CALIFORNIA](#)

[CITY OF BENICIA](#)

[CITY OF FAIRFIELD](#)

[CITY OF VALLEJO](#)

[SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE](#)

[BENICIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)

[FAIRFIELD-SUISUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)

[VALLEJO SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)

[POST OFFICE](#)

[GREATER VALLEJO RECREATION DISTRICT](#)

[YOUTH JOBS CORPS](#)

[CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS](#)

[SOLANO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT](#)

[FAIRFIELD-SUISUN SEWER DISTRICT](#)



First elected in 2016, Monica represents District 2 on the Solano County Board of Supervisors. District 2 encompasses the city of Benicia, the portion of Vallejo south of Georgia Street, Mare Island, Cordelia, Green Valley and a portion of Fairfield.

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Header photo by [Patrick Nouhailler](#)

