



SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER

August 30, 2024



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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

Labor Day

A reminder that the Solano County Government Center will be closed on Monday, September 2 for the Labor Day holiday.

Assessor/Recorder

(707) 784-6200

Traffic Advisory



Resource Management

(707) 784-6765

Registrar of Voters

(707) 784-6675

Tax Collector/Treasurer/County Clerk

(707) 784-7485

Caltrans will have a single lane closure and place temporary K-Rail barrier on Walnut Ave/ Railroad Ave Off Ramp overcrossing on Westbound State Route 37 between August 26 to September 13.

Area Agency on Aging

One of two Lanes will remain closed using temporary K-rail on the Southbound direction of the Walnut Ave/Railroad Ave overcrossing while the work is completed.

(707) 784-8960

State Route 37 will be unaffected by this work. This work is for an emergency repair of a damaged bridge barrier and safety rail on the overcrossing.

U.S. Social Security

(800) 772-1213

For the Safety of the crews and motorist, temporary K-Rail will need to be placed to provide ample space for the workers.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE

Information this week

800-273-8255

The Next Battle – California's Water

SPANISH LINE



888-628-9454

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

800 799 4889

FRIENDSHIP LINE FOR SENIORS

800 971 0016

CRISIS TEX LINE

741741

THE TREVOR PROJECT FOR LGBTQ YOUTH

866-488-7386

TRANS LIFELINE PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

877-565-8860

There shouldn't be a Californian alive that doesn't realize how valuable and precious our water supply is. Recently the state has mandated extreme cuts in water provisions and municipal use cuts throughout Solano County. We found some interesting information that our constituents should know about. Please inform yourselves, your family members, neighbors, community contacts and continue to research on your own any new information, put out by the state, or industry, as this issue will become more contentious moving into our future. We will provide updates, as they come to our attention.

Who owns the most water rights in the state of California?

Water is supposed to be a shared public resource, protected for the benefit and use of all California residents. California's waters cannot be owned by Government agencies, businesses, groups or individuals.

Loophole: Permits, licenses and registrations give individuals and others the right to beneficially use **reasonable** amounts of water by the California State Water Resources Control Board. One well known billionaire couple owns almost all the water in southern California. In 1994, they secretly seized control of California's public water supply and now their business model is selling it back to us, even though all infrastructure was paid for by the taxpayer. One of

their many products include Fiji Water, recalled earlier this year for containing high manganese levels and 3 bacteria present in certain lots.

Who/what uses the most water in California?

More than 9 million acres of farmland in California are irrigated and represents roughly 80% of all water used for businesses and homes, however we know that California is a dominant force in the world of agriculture on a global level. In the last approximate 10+ years, California has produced almost 75% of the nation's annual production of fruit and nuts and is well-positioned to continue to be a global power player in food production well into the future.

New Players – Here's One of Them

Artificial Intelligence, or **AI** tech firms are keeping hush hush on just how much AI computing demand consumes energy and our water, and the demands are increasing. One example would be Google. Last year, the company disclosed that its data centers consumed 6.1 billion gallons of water, roughly 17% more than the previous year. Another example, ChatGPT (a chatbot) query that uses AI is estimated to require at least 10 times more electricity than a standard Google search. AI data centers use water to cool their systems, which then evaporate water into the air. Giant data centers take the water from a utility service, and they evaporate the water into the sky, into the atmosphere. That is the current process. Might this factor into why our Governor and state water agencies are mandating how much water will be taken away from municipalities? There is no mention of water usage concerns by the Governor in this latest executive order: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2023/09/06/governor-newsom-signs-executive-order-to-prepare-california-for-the-progress-of-artificial-intelligence/> in which he touts that California has established itself as the world leader in GenAI innovation.

As we move forward, as residents of Solano County, we must stay informed and be ready to defend our water rights, our shared public resource.

Resources & Articles:

CalMatters

L.A. Times (need subscription) Article: "How much more water and power does AI computing demand? Tech firms don't want you to know", by Melody Peterson

Wired – "AI's Energy Demands Are Out of Control. Welcome to the Internet's Hyper-Consumption Era", by Reece Rogers

\$800 million and nothing to show: How activists derailed Silicon Valley billionaires' dream city

In a 2017, billionaire venture capitalist Michael Moritz [had a pitch](#) for potential investors: Put your money into a plan to build a brand new city in Solano County, about 60 miles northeast of San Francisco, and reap the profits once the project breaks ground. "If the plans materialize anywhere close to what is being contemplated, this should be a spectacular investment," he wrote in a note at the time. His idea clearly struck a chord: Big tech players like Marc Andreessen, LinkedIn cofounder Reid Hoffman, and Laurene Powell Jobs eventually backed the plan, spending some \$800 million to buy up over 60,000 acres across the county. They would eventually dub their project California Forever.

But turning that newly acquired land into their utopian dream requires permission to change the county's zoning laws, which currently designate the land solely for agriculture. Their vision is the creation of a brand new, middle-class, walkable city with and affordable housing. The investors have repeatedly said they want to build as fast as possible. Shortly after their plans were unveiled, they began the process of putting a ballot initiative in front of voters in the upcoming election in November. In February they started collecting the necessary 13,062 signatures, and subsequently spent [over \\$9 million](#) to barrage residents with website banners and TV ads.

To continue reading, click [here](#).

Drive safely as schools re-open



The Vallejo Police Department sent this press release, and I cannot agree more. Please drive smart as schools reopen.

"As summer draws to a close and students prepare to return to school, the Vallejo Police Department reminds all drivers to prioritize safety during the upcoming Back to School Month by slowing down, following the speed limit and being extra careful driving through school zones.

'During Back-to-School Month, let's prioritize safety behind the wheel to protect our children,' Officer Stefan Plasencia said. 'We urge every driver to slow down, remain alert, and take extra precautions when navigating through school zones.

By doing so, we can create a safer environment for everyone and foster a community where safety is a shared responsibility.'

The Vallejo Police Department offers the following tips to stay safe around schools:

- Slow down and follow the speed limit.
- Adhere to school policies and procedures for dropping off and picking up students.
- Stop for school buses. Watch for children rushing to catch the bus or exiting.
- Whenever possible, avoid blocking the crosswalk while waiting to make a right-hand turn.
- For parents with children walking or biking to school, teach them safe walking and riding behaviors, such as looking both ways before crossing the street, using sidewalks when permissible and available, and crossing at marked crosswalks with stop signs or signals

If you are behind a school bus with a stop sign and flashing red lights, drivers need to stop so students can safely get on and off the bus. Drivers must remain stopped while the red lights are on. Drivers in both directions must stop on any two-lane road without a median or a center turn lane."

Regional transportation committee eyes 2026 ballot measure for Bay Area transit funding



Bay Area voters could soon be asked to help shore up the region's struggling public transportation network.

A regional committee of transit officials, lawmakers, union and business representatives and community groups has been formed to explore ways to help keep BART from falling off a fiscal cliff and ensure other Bay Area transit agencies are solvent.

The 18-member [Transportation Revenue Measure Select Committee](#) began meeting in June to develop recommendations for placing a transit funding measure on the 2026 ballot. The committee will meet through October to determine what kind of measure to position for the ballot, what it would fund and how it would be paid for.

To continue reading, click [here](#).

Checking Tap Water Quality: San Francisco Estuary Partnership Works with Community-based Organizations and Tribes to Address Tap Water Concerns

A press release:

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)'s San Francisco Estuary Partnership partnered with 11



community partners working in disadvantaged neighborhoods in the Bay Area and the California Indian Environmental Alliance along with Simple Lab, an environmental testing service, specializing in laboratory logistics and sampling, to test tap water for its newly released [Tap Water Testing Report](#).

The Estuary Partnership's San Francisco Bay Area Tap Water Testing Program marks the biggest community-driven tap water quality testing initiative effort in this region. It was funded through California's Integrated Regional Water Management program, established by a voter-approved ballot measure in 2014.

The Estuary Partnership and its outreach partners developed the community-driven Tap Water Testing Program, which operated from 2019 to 2022, after results from the [San Francisco Bay Regional Water Needs Assessment](#) report revealed widespread distrust of tap water by underserved Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. Rather than disregard these concerns, the Estuary Partnership collaborated with participating outreach partners to define program parameters and testing solutions.

The Estuary Partnership conducted research on tap water quality testing, engaged utilities, and worked with water quality experts to standardize program components required to ensure the data was informative and scientifically defensible. Afterward, each outreach partner led the development of the specific tap water quality testing effort in their community or Tribe. Participants were recruited by each outreach partner and were often the same individuals or households who participated in the Regional Needs Assessment.

The Tap Water Testing program — including data collection, analysis and interpretation — was formed directly from the Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement Program's San Francisco Bay Regional Water Needs Assessment findings and by subsequent requests from Tribes and disadvantaged communities to investigate their concerns about their tap water quality.

To ensure independently verified and scientifically robust results, the San Francisco Estuary Partnership and its outreach partners teamed with SimpleLab, which connects individuals and groups with certified laboratories to conduct rigorous environmental testing. Each

community and Tribal partner worked directly with SimpleLab, with support from the project team, to collect and submit water samples for a point-in-time analysis. Each community selected from a menu of testing panels based on local environmental concerns, existing water quality data, and specific tap water quality concerns collected in the Regional Needs Assessment.

In addition to working with SimpleLab, extensive consultation also was undertaken with local utilities, regulators and other groups to ensure transparency and communication with key partners across the process, allowing the goal of the testing to stay focused on this program serving as a data collection effort envisioned and led by the participating communities and Tribes, and a testing and reporting effort carried out by an independent third party.

In a broader sense, the Tap Water Testing program connects with the work of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which last year announced a ruling that will go into effect in 2027 making annual drinking water quality reports more understandable and accessible to the public.

A summary of the Tap Water Testing Program results provided below:

- 555 samples were taken and tested for contaminants. These samples resulted in 34,296 test results.
- Approximately 0.08% of test results exceeded primary regulatory standards where they existed (10 out of 12,895). Eight of the 10 samples represented unique locations, two were retests.
- Exceedances of much stricter Public Health Goal standards were found to occur in about 5% of all tests where they existed (640 out of 12,946), with a consistent range of 3-6% by community.
- About 2% of all tests with relevant secondary (aesthetic) standards exceeded those standards (89 out of 4,565).
- 70 samples were taken and tested for 14 different per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS, also known as a forever chemical). None exceeded any health-related response or even notification level.

The San Francisco Estuary is named in the federal Clean Water Act as one of 28 "estuaries of national significance." Millions of people, hundreds of communities, and many industries rely on the San Francisco Estuary for fresh water, recreation, agriculture and more. Additionally, thousands of wildlife species rely on the estuary for habitat. For over 30 years, the San Francisco Estuary Partnership has worked together with local communities and federal and state

agencies to improve the health of California's most urbanized estuary.

For more information about the San Francisco Estuary Partnership's Tap Water Testing Report or the Tap Water Testing Report Appendix please visit: <https://www.sfestuary.org/tap-water-testing-report/>. An executive summary of the report is provided in both Spanish and Traditional Chinese.

Public hearings

Mare Island Infrastructure Assessment Project community meeting

Mare Island Infrastructure Assessment (MIA) Project
COMMUNITY INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Date: September 4, 2024
Time: 6pm
Location: Mare Island Marketing Center (Conference Center) located at: 375 G Street Vallejo, CA 94592
Parking available within red areas below:

Come learn about the current conditions of the infrastructure on Mare Island including:
Roads Sanitary Sewer Dry Utilities
Water Storm Drain Flood Control Systems
Learn how this may affect Short-Term and Long-Term Infrastructure needs.

Led by:
Vallecjo
West Yost Water Engineers
Mare Island Co.

Funding provided by:
EDA

Fairfield Forward 2050: Draft General Plan Update available for public review



The public review period for the Draft General Plan Update, Draft CAP, and DEIR ends on **September 9, at 5 p.m.**

Copies of the draft documents will be available for review at the City of

Fairfield Community Development Department (1000 Webster Street, Second Floor, Fairfield, CA 94533), Fairfield Civic Center Library (1150 Kentucky Street, Fairfield, CA 94533), and Fairfield Cordelia Library (5050 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533).

Please send your comments, including your name, to Jessie Hernandez at 1000 Webster Street, Second Floor, Fairfield, CA 94533 or jhernandez@fairfield.ca.gov by the deadline.

Fairfield Forward 2050 consists of a General Plan Update, Climate Action Plan, and Environmental Impact Report (EIR). If adopted, the General Plan Update would guide future land use decisions in the City of Fairfield, providing a long-term vision for the future and, through its policies and implementing actions, indicating how that vision would be achieved over the next 25 years. The Climate Action Plan (CAP) would address the community's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and demonstrate how the City will comply with State GHG emission reduction targets.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) analyzes how adopting and implementing the goals, policies, actions, and projected buildout of the Fairfield Forward 2050 project. An EIR is intended to inform decision-makers and the general public of the potential significant environmental impacts of a proposed project. The proposed project will result in unavoidable significant impacts with regards to agricultural resources, mineral resources, and transportation.

Visit www.fairfieldforward.com for more information.

Notice of 30-Day Public Review and Comment Period: LAFCO Project No. 2024-03 Solano County Mosquito Abatement District Municipal Service Review

Solano LAFCO has released the public draft of the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD) Municipal Service Review (MSR) for a 30-day public review and comment period extending until **September 12**.



The SCMAD's sphere of influence (SOI) and service boundary is coterminous with the Solano County boundary. The District is not proposing to amend this boundary. The District is consistent with State law and has adopted policies and practices that ensure it continues to operate efficiently and effectively. Therefore, the draft MSR preliminary findings support and recommend that the SCMAD SOI be reaffirmed.

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act of 2000 (CKH) requires LAFCO to adopt and periodically update the sphere of influence for special districts and municipalities concurrently or subsequently to the preparation of a MSR.

Please send comments to Tyra Hays at Thays@solanolafco.com

[Solano County Mosquito Abatement District MSR Draft](#)

Updates from Solano County

Women of the Year program



Congressman John Garamendi is currently accepting nominations for the Annual Women of the Year Awards. Do you know a woman making a difference in your community? **Nominations are due Monday, September 9th, 2024.**

The 2024 Women of the Year honorees will be recognized in October, with more details to come. Following the honorees recognition, Congressman Garamendi will host a conversation about some of the critical issues important to women and families in our communities.

What topics would you like to see Congressman Garamendi address?

Reproductive Rights
Affordable Child Care and Early Education
Reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act
Women's Economic Empowerment
Safety and Freedom from Violence
Fairness for Pregnant Workers
Equal Rights Amendment

For more information, click [here](#).

Assemblywoman Lori Wilson in Benicia



On Friday, September 6, Assemblymember Lori D. Wilson, along with her District and Capitol team, will be at Benicia City Hall for an Assembly District 11 event. It serves as an occasion for residents of Assembly District 11, in and around the city of Benicia, to engage in a face-to-face conversation with their elected representative.

There are two options to meet with Assemblymember Wilson's office:

- Assemblymember Wilson's staff will be onsite for drop in discussions between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Her staff can assist you or someone you know with state-related matters such as: consumer complaints, unemployment/disability insurance through EDD, Department of Motor Vehicles and much more. No appointments are necessary to meet with her staff.
- If you wish to speak with Assemblymember Wilson herself, you can schedule a ten-minute, one-on-one meeting between 1:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. If you would like to do so, please reach out to Tisha Simpson to schedule your time by emailing Tisha.Simpson@asm.ca.gov.

Event Details and Schedule:

Location: Benicia City Hall Chambers, 250 East L Street, Benicia, CA 94510

- 10:00 a.m. - 10:55 a.m. City Departments and Special Districts
- 11:00 a.m. - 11:55 a.m. Local Businesses and Nonprofits
- 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Scheduled one on one appointments (no drop ins)

Fairfield Fire to Pick Up Battalion Chief Coverage for Suisun Fire



From the city of Fairfield:

The Fairfield Fire Department will provide two 48-hour duty shifts for the Suisun City Fire Department beginning September 1, as approved by the City Council on August 20. Fairfield's duty chief will respond to incidents in Suisun City from Fairfield, including preparation

of any fire reports if required.

The incident response will utilize the same criteria used in Fairfield. Suisun City Fire Department is having difficulty hiring and retaining staff at the battalion chief level. The department currently has full-time duty coverage for only one of its three shifts. The chiefs split the remaining coverage but that is unsustainable in the long-term, according to a staff report.

Fairfield Fire Department Chief Deputy Robb Herrick explained the proposal to council members prior to the vote, which was unanimous, (Mayor Moy absent). Suisun City will pay Fairfield

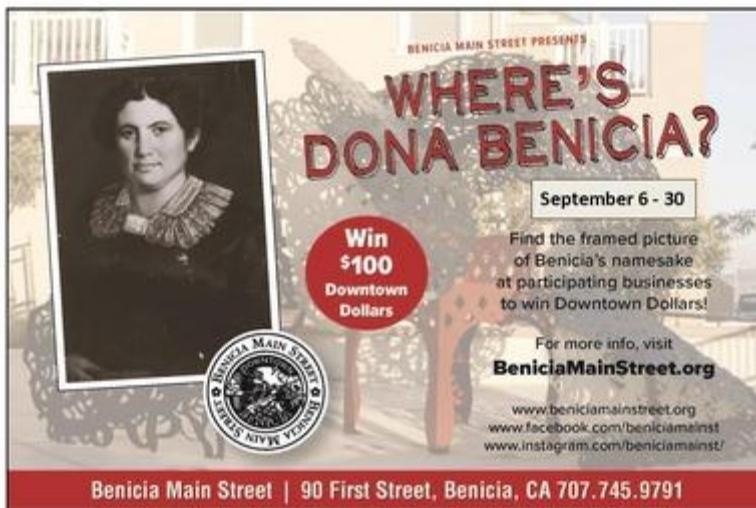
approx. \$8,000 per month through the term of the agreement which ends June 2025.

According to Herrick, there should be no negative impacts on the Fairfield Fire Department as the process is similar to how Fairfield handles the Cordelia Fire Protection District, (which adds an average of 1.2 calls per day to the Fairfield duty chief response volume).

Based on 2023 and 2024 data provided by the Suisun City Fire Department, the average time a duty chief spends on an incident in Suisun City is 29 minutes, with more than 92% of those incidents being cleared within one hour.

Fairfield will not be adding staffing, apparatus, or equipment to take on the service. Fairfield has shift battalion chief coverage on weekdays and at least one chief at the battalion chief rank or higher working business hours.

“Where’s Doña Benicia?” Contest in September



Benicia Main Street is celebrating the city’s namesake with a unique shopping promotion from **September 6 to September 30**. Visitors to Benicia’s shops on First Street can enter a drawing to win \$100 in Downtown Dollars, redeemable at dozens of downtown businesses, by locating a framed photograph of Doña Benicia inside participating stores.

According to the Benicia Historical Museum, “Doña Benicia came from a long line of strong women. Her mother was one of the first woman winemakers in Sonoma County. At the age of 17, she traveled for four weeks by mule while pregnant to reach her husband, General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo and was the mother of 16 children of which ten survived to adulthood. After the founding of Benicia,

named after her, she began to go by that name instead of Francisca and was thereafter known as Doña Benicia.”

Shoppers simply find a framed photo of Doña Benicia and e-mail the store name, and the secret code word printed on the back of the frame to Benicia Main Street at info@beniciamainstreet.org to enter the drawing.

Earn one entry for each store – or score a double entry by purchasing an item at the store and showing the receipt to Benicia Main Street, located at 90 First St.

Participating merchants include: Adobe Second Chance Thrift Shop, Angel Heart 4 You, Antiques on 1st, Aquarian Plants/The Courtyard Salon, Artcentric, Benicia Main Street, Benicia Plein Air Gallery, Benicia State Capitol, Bookshop Benicia, Cartel Crystals, Daughter of Luna Floral Design, Elisa’s Cottage, Framed on First, Gallery 621, Happy Life Pottery, HQ Gallery, Le Sparkly Chateau, Mozart, Earhart & Me, NY2CA Gallery, Pink Arrows Boutique, Pups N Purrz, Roberto’s Fine Jewelry, Rosie Mae Uniques, Sepay Groves Olive Oil, Sips, Sparkly Ragz, The Filling Station Goods & Gifts, The Little Art Shop, Two Days Jewelry, Willow Jewelry/ Steve Deutsch woodwinds, Yummi Mart, and Zeppelin Comics.

For more info on Where’s Dona Benicia, visit Benicia Main Street at the historic train depot building at the waterfront end of First Street, 90 First St., or contact us at (707) 745-9791 or online at beniciamainstreet.org.

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation store

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation has launched a brand-new online store, which includes upcoming events and tours to memberships that bring you closer to the rich history of Mare Island. It’s all just a click away.

To visit the store, click [here](#).

Fall 2024 Plant Sale announced



**CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SALE**

Perennials, Shrubs & Groundcovers for
a beautiful, wildlife-friendly garden

ON-LINE SALE
STARTING SATURDAY 8AM
September 23 - 29, 2024
Go to www.cnps.org/chapters/jepson for link to on-line store

PICKUP on Oct. 5, 2024
at locations in Benicia and Fairfield

IN-PERSON SALE
Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024, 10 AM - 2 PM
1400 East Second Street, Benicia

Scan me to see CA Natives!



California Native Plant Society
Willis Linn Jepson Chapter - Solano County
For more info: (707) 365-1854 or contact@jepson.cnps.org

The Willis Linn Jepson Chapter of the California Native Plant Society has announced dates for its fall native plant sale. Online sales are September 23 to 29.

Sales open earlier on September 21 to members! Online orders must be picked up on October 5 in Benicia or in Fairfield anytime between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Plants will also be available for sale at the Benicia pickup location, 1400 East Second Street, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The link to the online store will be activated on the website, www.cnps.org/chapters/jepson on September 23 at 8 a.m. Chapter members will have the link emailed to them on September 21.

County seeks individuals to serve on the Assessment Appeals Board to conduct property assessment disputes



A Solano County press release:

The County is looking for individuals interested in serving on the Assessment Appeals Board. A position on the Board requires a minimum of five years of professional experience in the State of California as one of the following:

- Certified Public Accountant or Public Accountant

- Licensed Real Estate Broker
- Attorney at Law
- Property Appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized professional organization
- Property Appraiser certified by the Office of Real Estate Appraisers
- Property Appraiser certified by the State Board of Equalization

Individuals appointed to the Assessment Appeals Board are required to complete a self-study training course and will meet approximately once a month to hear appeals on real and personal property.

Compensation for Board duties include:

- \$100 per half day
- \$200 for a full day
- \$400 per day per consecutive hearing days due to complex assessment appeal cases
- \$25 per hour for document review and preparation time for complex assessment appeal cases

All applications, including required documentation outlined in the application must be filed with the Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors by September 13, 2024. For applications visit the Solano County website at www.SolanoCounty.com, click on “Clerk of the Board,” and then “Advisory Boards and Committees,” and complete an [application](#). Applicants can also contact Veronica Lake, Deputy Clerk of the Assessment Appeals Board at (707) 784-6126 or VALake@SolanoCounty.com.

About the Assessment Appeals Board

The Solano County Assessment Appeals Board is a quasi-judicial body composed of three members appointed by the Board of Supervisors to conduct hearings on property assessment disputes. Acting based on relevant evidence submitted at the hearing, it is the role of this board to make a fair, impartial decision on all property assessment disputes appealed between taxpayers and the County Assessor’s Office.

Vallejo Police Department to establish a DUI checkpoint



From a Vallejo Police Department press release:

The Vallejo Police Department (VPD) will hold a DUI Checkpoint on Monday, September 2, from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. at an undisclosed location within the city of Vallejo.

DUI checkpoint locations are determined based on data showing incidents of impaired driving-related crashes. The primary purpose of DUI checkpoints is to promote public safety by taking suspected impaired drivers off the road.

“Impaired drivers put others on the road at significant risk,” Officer James Beglin said. “Any prevention measures that reduce the number of impaired drivers on our roads significantly improve traffic safety.”

The Vallejo Police Department reminds the public that impaired driving is not just from alcohol. Some prescription medications and over-the-counter drugs may interfere with driving. While medicinal and recreational marijuana are legal, driving under the influence of marijuana is illegal.

Drivers charged with a first-time DUI face an average of \$13,500 in fines and penalties, as well as a suspended license.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Solano AIDS Coalition’s Fiestas Patrias



Solano AIDS Coalition

The Solano AIDS Coalition’s is hosting Fiestas Patrias in Vallejo on **Saturday, September 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Downtown Vallejo.**

This event aims to bring together the Hispanic community in Vallejo and celebrate the rich culture and traditions. If you are a vendor or non-profit that would like to attend, click [here](#).

For more information, reach out to solanoaidscoalition@yahoo.com.

NAMIWalks Solano - Walk for Mental Health



NAMIWalks Solano - Walk for Mental Health, scheduled for Saturday, October 19, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Lagoon Valley Park, Vacaville.

The purpose of the event is to walk to promote mental health awareness and to reduce stigma; to raise funds for NAMI Solano's free, top-rated mental health programs; and to build community and let people know they are not alone.

To register, click [here](#).

Board of Supervisors seeks community's help identifying centenarians for recognition ceremony

A Solano County press release:

The Solano County Board of Supervisors needs the community's help in identifying centenarians living in our community for recognition at an upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting later this fall as part of the 17th annual centenarian commemoration celebration.



For the past 16 years, the Solano County Board of Supervisors has recognized and honored centenarians by hosting a celebration for them during a Board of Supervisors meeting. The commemoration serves to capture and share the stories of some of Solano County's oldest residents, while bringing attention to some of the issues facing the senior population.

This year, as part of the commemoration event, the Board will receive a video presentation of Solano County's Centenarians, sharing stories from their amazing lives. The Board has hired a professional videographer who will come to your home (or place of your choosing) to conduct the video interview. Information collected at the interviews will also be included as part of a commemorative yearbook, distributed to all Centenarians shortly after the commemoration event. Centenarians who wish not to conduct an interview are still encouraged to submit information, including a biography and photographs to help tell their life story.

To date the Board has honored more than 225 centenarians in Solano County. Two centenarians reached super-centenarian status, including Marie West in 2011 and Reta Wills in 2021. Super-centenarians are those individuals who have reached the age of 110 years or older, which only occurs at a rate of about 1 in 7 million people.

According to the Boston University School of Medicine, 2022 New England Centenarian Study, out of a population of 336.9 million people, there were approximately 89,739 centenarians living in the United States, or a prevalence of 0.27 percent of the total population. The prevalence of centenarians living in the United States has been increasing over time and nearly doubled in the past 20 years. In addition to genetics, physical activity and social support, scientists liken our ability to prevent and treat diseases like

cancer, pneumonia and stroke to be a strong indicator this trend will likely continue.

CONTACTING THE COUNTY ABOUT CENTENARIANS

If you know of a centenarian, please email Centenarian@SolanoCounty.com and/or call (707) 784-3004 by or before September 4, 2023. Please relay the following information over the phone or in an email to the Supervisor, including (1) name, (2) address, (3) phone number, (4) and best contact email address.

Vallejo Flights & Lite Bites Festival



This event is all about flight, fun for kids and adults, and supply plenty of activities for the kid in all of us. It will take place from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, September 14 at the Barbara Kondylis Waterfront Green, 301 Mare Island Way in the city of Vallejo.**

Plan to spend the day, bring a blanket and grab your lite bites to watch the kites, drones, planes and more... and make sure to visit the numerous vendors that will be on hand.

For more information, click [here](#).

Vallejo JFK Library's September calendar of events



The Vallejo JFK Library's September calendar of events, click [here](#).

Alert Solano



All Solano County residents should have these 2 important emergency notification systems on their phones. You can register on Alert Solano or get an app for Watch Duty. The app is free. As wildfire season is in full effect, it is paramount that all residents are notified and provided with the critical information needed to take protective action for

them, their families and neighbors who may need extra help. Let's all get through this fire season safely!

Please see links below for registering or downloading the app on your phones.

<https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/oes/alertsolano/information.asp>

<https://www.watchduty.org/>

Teen Writing Contest



This year the library is looking for Solano County teens between the ages of 12 and 18 to submit their best short stories and poems! Those who win will each get a \$25 gift card and have their work published in the library's Write On Magazine which comes out every fall!

For more information, click [here](#).

National POW-MIA Recognition Day



National POW-MIA Recognition Day

Vacaville Veterans Memorial Building Association
549 Merchant Street
Vacaville, CA 95688
(707) 447-6354

August 20, 2024

The Vacaville Veterans Organizations and Auxiliaries cordially invite you to attend the National POW/MIA Recognition Day Closing Ceremony to be held on Friday, September 20, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

The ceremony will be held at the Solano County Vietnam Veterans Memorial located at 630 Merchant Street in Vacaville.

This year's keynote speaker is Richard "Dog" Brenneman who served in the US Air Force. Brenneman served in the Cold War from 1965 to 1991, the Vietnam War from 1967 to 1973, and the Persian Gulf War during 1991. While serving in Southeast Asia, Brenneman flew 51 1/2 missions until 8 November 1967 - a bad day. Richard "Dog" Brenneman spent 1,954 days in captivity and was released during Operation Homecoming and returned home 14 March 1973. He was on the same plane as Senator John McCain. He ended up at Travis AFB where he continued to serve until his retirement in 1993.

The Vacaville High School Band will be participating in the ceremony for their 33rd year. We hope that you will be able to join us for this incredibly special ceremony that will pay tribute to our former prisoners of war who served this nation in time of crisis, as well as a time to remember those that are still listed as missing in action and the families who still wait.

Please let us know if you will be able to attend by sending your RSVP to lynn.jewell53@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Limited Seating will be available and you will need to park behind Vacaville City Hall

Vacaville Veterans: American Legion Post 165 & Auxiliary, AMVETS Post 1776, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 84, Marine Corp League Hallam Detachment #1486, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7244& Auxiliary

POW - MIA ... Lest We Forget

Corporation Yard - Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off



Beginning on **October 1, 2024**, oil-based paints can now be dropped off at the city of Benicia's Corporation Yard Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) drop-off on **Saturdays from 9 a.m. to Noon**. The location is **2400 East Second Street**

Previously only latex paint was accepted. Oil base items include:

- Interior and exterior architectural paints: acrylic, alkyd, oil-based, enamel (including textured coatings)
- Deck coatings, floor paints (including elastomeric)
- Primers, sealers, under-coaters
- Stains, shellacs, lacquers, varnishes, urethanes (single component)
- Waterproofing concrete/masonry/wood sealers and repellents (not tar or bitumen-based)
- Metal coatings, rust preventatives
- Field and lawn paints.

This facility will also continue to accept light tubes, CFLs, household batteries, car batteries (No EV), motor oil and oil filters, antifreeze, latex paint, and aerosols. No charge to Benicia residents.

Other chemicals need a HHW Door-to-Door appointment for pickup. Look for the HHW button at RepublicServices.com/BeniciaCA to schedule a free appointment (non-business accounts only). For more information, click [here](#).

Open Show



Fairfield Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce, in collaboration with the Fairfield-Suisun City Visual Arts Association, invites you to write a poem to an art piece from the exhibit "Open Show," from **September 11 to October 26 at the Solano Town Center Gallery at 1350 Travis Boulevard, Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

Starting September 10, you can also view the art online at www.fvaa-arts.org. **There is an Art Reception and Poetry Reading on Saturday, September 21, from 4 to 6 pm at the Gallery in Suite D-8 on the second floor.**

Send Suzanne your poem in a Word document or pdf with a picture of art above the poem **by Wednesday, September 18, at 5 p.m.** at fairfieldpoetlaureate@gmail.com

Please keep your poem to 42 lines or less.

Arts Benicia

The galleries will reopen on August 17 for **A Stitch in Time: Contemporary Textile & Fiber Art** exhibition. Juried by Aimee Le Duc, and sponsored in part by Happy Life Pottery, this exhibition is sure to surprise, enlighten and inspire you with the wide range of techniques, materials, and concepts.



An opening reception will take place on Family Art Day on Sunday, September 29, 1 to 3 p.m. This event is free and will take place at the Commanding Officer's Quarters at 1 Commandant's Lane.

Be sure to mark your calendar and buy your tickets now for the upcoming **Champagne, Chocolate, and Blues** event, on Sunday, October 6, 4 to 6 p.m., <https://artsbenicia.org/champagne-chocolate-blues-2024/>

Arts Benicia is featuring tastings of sparkling wines and crémant from Terrie Patterson-Boisset Collection, Champagne, Cava, non-alcoholic sparklers, and delicious chocolate treats, with music by Alvon, Ambassador of the Blues.

The Arts Benicia Gallery is located at 1 Commandant's Lane, Benicia, in the Commanding Officer's Quarters, in the historic Benicia Arsenal. Gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Visitors are invited to walk throughout the historic mansion built in 1860, an important and interesting part of our town's history. For more information visit <https://artsbenicia.org>

Arts Benicia also offers art classes for adults and youth, many of which are open to beginners. Consider checking out the new classes listed on our website. For our full listings, please visit <https://artsbenicia.org/adult-classes> and <https://artsbenicia.org/youth-art-classes>

Interested in sponsoring a program with Arts Benicia? The support of local businesses and donors is essential to the quality and reach of our programs. With your sponsorship support, we can continue to offer an engaging, diverse array of programs at low or no cost to our

community To find out more about sponsoring an Arts Benicia exhibition or program, please get in touch by emailing us at info@artsbenicia.org or visiting <https://artsbenicia.org/sponsorship/>

Inquiries? Email: info@artsbenicia.org or visit <http://artsbenicia.org>

Benicia Artist Bodil Fox Presents “An Uncommon Thread” at NY2CA Gallery



Bodil Fox invites you to her solo show, “An Uncommon Thread,” at NY2CA Gallery from August 15 to September 29, at 617 1st Street, Benicia.

The exhibition showcases her innovative fiber techniques and materials, including fragile concrete, ornate copper, pleated paper, and thermoplastics. Her work is playful, materials-based, and often conceptual, inspired by textiles and uncommon techniques.

Mark your calendars for September 7, from 1 to 4 p.m., for “Threads in Motion: Hands-on Textile Art Experience,” featuring fiber artists and performances by the Benicia Chorus.

Upcoming events in Solano County

August is National Breastfeeding Month

August is recognized annually as National Breastfeeding Month.

Join the Black Breastfeeding Week Celebration hosted by Doula Doula, Solano Public Health’s Black Infant Health Program, WIC and UC Berkeley’s School of Public Health on **Saturday, August 31 from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Solano Community Health Hub at the Solano Town Center Mall located at 1350 Travis Blvd. Suite 1492-A in Fairfield.**

It will be an afternoon of celebration, empowerment and community. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Speaker Series: Future of Transit in Solano County

The poster is for a speaker series event. At the top, it says 'Soiano' in a stylized font. Below that, it reads 'SPEAKER SERIES: FUTURE OF TRANSIT IN SOLANO COUNTY' and 'September 5th, 2024 | 12:00PM - 1:30PM'. The central image shows a ferry boat on the water. To the right of the ferry, it says 'SPONSORED BY: KAISER PERMANENTE'. At the bottom, there are three circular headshots of speakers with their names and titles below them.

Seamus Murphy
Executive Director
Water Emergency
Transportation

Phil Pierce
Senior Public Policy Manager
Zoox

Matt Schrap
CEO
Harbor Trucking
Association

To register, and/or for more information, click [here](#).

Kaiser Permanente's Community Health Fair



Kaiser Permanente is hosting a Community Health Fair at the Vacaville Medical Center

on **Saturday, September 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** The hospital is located at 1 Quality Drive.

Join Kaiser Permanente to celebrate health, wellness and community with flu shots, a blood drive, blood pressure screenings and much more.

Benicia Oktoberfest



Indulge in the spirit of Oktoberfest as you are presented with the best of German culture right here in Benicia. From traditional Bavarian music to mouthwatering food, this event promises an unforgettable experience for all.

Grab your lederhosen or dirndl and immerse yourself in the lively atmosphere. The marketplace will be bustling with local vendors. Explore the stalls and discover handmade crafts, artisanal goods, and much more.

The event will take place on Saturday, September 14, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Benicia Marina Green, corner of First and B Street, Benicia.

Enjoy a day filled with laughter, games and community. [Purchase Tickets on https://beniciaoktoberfest.com](https://beniciaoktoberfest.com)

Pawtoberfest



Mark your calendars for September 14! From 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., the Benicia Clock Tower will be the place to be for the most exciting celebration in town - Pawtoberfest!

Sip on the finest brews and wines. Traditional German Cuisine: Delight in mouth-watering dishes. Live Music & Dance: Enjoy great music and impressive dance performances. Exciting Raffle: Try your luck and win amazing prizes!

Dessert Dash: Win your favorite dessert in this thrilling event. Live & Online Auctions: Bid on incredible items, both in-person and online.

All proceeds directly support the Humane Society of the North Bay.

The Benicia Clock Tower is located at 1189 Washington Street in the city of Benicia.

To purchase tickets, click [here](#).

Mare Island Founders Day 2024



Step back in time and join the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation for a blast from the past! Celebrate 170 years of Mare Island's history at the Founders Day extravaganza.

On Sunday, September 15, from 1 to 4 p.m., immerse yourself in family fun, live music, silent auctions, and more. Entry is free, with paid activities for all ages. Don't miss this nostalgic celebration!

Remember to bring your own chair for a comfortable day of festivities!

The festival will take place at the Admiral's Mansion, 1065 Walnut Avenue on Mare Island.

For more information, click [here](#).

Founders Day, 'Behind the Fences' VIP Bus Tour



Join in on a unique journey by bus to three rarely seen *Behind the Fences* locations on the historic Mare Island Naval Shipyard. Local Historians Dennis Kelly and Brendan Riley as well as Mare Island Historic Park Foundation docents will be on hand to provide the fascinating histories and tales behind these historic spots as we peer inside the **Haunted Armory Building 77**, **Old 84 Mare Island Prison**, and the original **Mare Island Stables** (the second oldest building on the Island).

Your tour will begin with a glass of Road 31 Wine Co. sparkling wine before you board the bus and conclude with post-tour specialty cocktail from Savage & Cooke distillery.

The event will take place on Saturday, September 14 from 1:30 to 4 p.m., Savage & Cooke, 1097 Nimitz Avenue on Mare Island in the city of Vallejo. Cost is \$75.

Note: There will be disembarking at each location, with approximately 1/4 mile of walking over uneven ground.

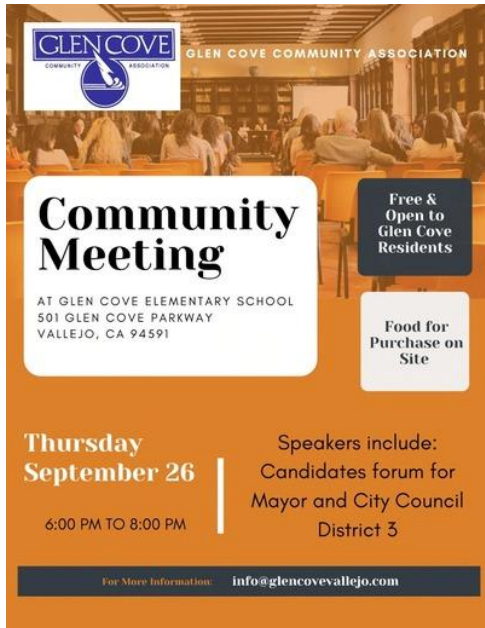
Coastal Cleanup Day 2024

Saturday, September 21 will mark the 40th anniversary of California Coastal Cleanup Day.

The city of Benicia will celebrate Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 21, at Alvarez Ninth Street Park.

To check cleanup locations, and/or for more information, click [here](#).

Glen Cove election community meeting



The poster features a background image of a community meeting in progress. At the top left is the Glen Cove Community Association logo. The main text reads: 'Community Meeting' in large font, followed by 'AT GLEN COVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 501 GLEN COVE PARKWAY, VALLEJO, CA 94591'. To the right, a dark blue box states 'Free & Open to Glen Cove Residents' and a white box says 'Food for Purchase on Site'. The date and time are 'Thursday September 26, 6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM'. Below that, it lists 'Speakers include: Candidates forum for Mayor and City Council District 3'. At the bottom, it provides contact information: 'For More Information: info@grencovevallejo.com'.

For more information about local candidates, click [here](#).

Para leer la versión en español, [haga clic aquí](#)

Vest's Empowerment Walk/Stroll-A-Thon

Join VEST and the Wellness Center at Solano Community College for the first Annual 2024 Empowerment Walk/Stroll Against Domestic Violence.

This event is part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, dedicated to raising awareness and supporting survivors of intimate partner violence.

It will take place from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, October 5 at Solano Community College, 4000 Suisun Valley Road, in Fairfield.

Glen Cover summer shindig



SAVE THE DATE

GLEN COVE END-OF-SUMMER GATHERING

Live music, food trucks, games and more!
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024
Glen Cove Waterfront Park

Interested in volunteering to help with this event or others? The GCCA is a community-based organization that runs 100% on people who are willing to share their time or talents to bring our community together.

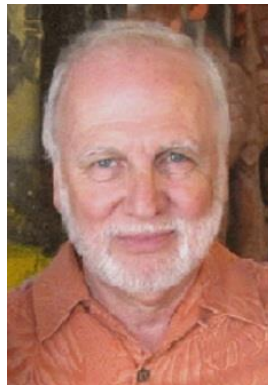
For more info, please contact: adriana@glencovevallejo.com

Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce presents David Alpaugh

David Alpaugh will be Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce's featured reader in October! **The event will take place from 1 to 3 p.m., Saturday, October 12 inside the Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky Street.**

After his reading, there will be an Open Mic.

David is a graduate of Rutgers University and the University of California, Berkeley, David teaches poetry for the UC Berkeley Extension and at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's Cal State East Bay Campus. A popular performer of his own poetry, he hosted monthly poetry readings in the SF Bay area for fifteen years and has been a finalist for Poet Laureate of California.



Events I attended this week

I spent Saturday, August 24 at two events. The first event was the Freedom Summer program held at the Benicia Library. Freedom

Summer is an important part of American History when it comes to voting rights for everyone. Freedom Summer took place in 1964.

Mary Susan Gast, Benicia's poet laureate, spoke of her time in Mississippi. Linda Youngblood Wright, a Benicia storyteller, shared an oral theater's presentation about Fannie Lou Hamer. There was music provided by Syria T Berry. The songs he played and encouraged the audience to sing matched the appropriate time era.

We are fortunate that Constance Beutel videoed the event. You may find the presentation below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9koh2NYvbwE>

Thank you, Ms. Beutel, for the work you do for the community.

The second event was the spaghetti dinner fund raiser held for Benicia Cub Scout 7108. A shout out to the Kiwanis Club of Benicia for cooking the food. Saint Paul's Church was full of families. The food was good.

The little shows the scouts put on were cute and brought smiles to all the adults. I know times are tough, but if you can donate a little the money goes towards covering the costs associated with camps, venues and other activities. Email Sean Pyka at sipyka@gmail.com The non-profit EIN is 36-1327510.

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](#)

Newsletter photo

Downtown Vallejo. Photo: John Glidden



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.