



Solano County *California*

SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER

February 7, 2025



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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

**Tax
Collector/Treasurer/County
Clerk**

(707) 784-7485

Area Agency on Aging

(707) 784-8960

Holiday closures



The Solano County Administrative Center will be closed on Wednesday, February 12, in observance of Lincoln's Birthday, and Monday, February 17 in observance of Washington's Birthday. The Solano County Library system will also be closed on the

same dates.

Information this week

Attorney General Bonta and 14 Attorneys General Issue Joint Statement on Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Care

An announcement from California Attorney General Rob Bonta:

Attorney General Bonta today joined a coalition of 14 attorneys general to reaffirm their commitment to protecting access to

gender-affirming care in the face of the Trump Administration's recent [Executive Order](#). The coalition released the following statement:

"As state attorneys general, we stand firmly in support of healthcare policies that respect the dignity and rights of all people. Health care decisions should be made by patients, families, and doctors, not by a politician trying to use his power to restrict your freedoms. Gender-affirming care is essential, life-saving medical treatment that supports individuals in living as their authentic selves.

The Trump Administration's recent Executive Order is wrong on the science and the law. Despite what the Trump Administration has suggested, there is no connection between "female genital mutilation" and gender-affirming care, and no federal law makes gender-affirming care unlawful. President Trump cannot change that by Executive Order.

Last week, attorneys general secured a critical win from a federal court that directed the federal government to resume funding that had been frozen by the Trump Administration. In response to the Court's Order, the Department of Justice has sent a notice stating that "federal agencies cannot pause, freeze, impede, block, cancel, or terminate any awards or obligations on the basis of the OMB memo, or on the basis of the President's recently issued Executive Orders." This means that federal funding to institutions that provide gender-affirming care continues to be available, irrespective of President Trump's recent Executive Order. If the federal administration takes additional action to impede this critical funding, we will not hesitate to take further legal action.

State attorneys general will continue to enforce state laws that provide access to gender-affirming care, in states where such enforcement authority exists, and we will challenge any unlawful effort by the Trump Administration to restrict access to it in our jurisdictions."

Joining Attorney General Bonta in issuing this statement are the attorneys general of Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

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 TEX LINE

741741

THE TREVOR PROJECT
FOR LGBTQ YOUTH

866-488-7386

TRANS LIFELINE
PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR
THE TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY

877-565-8860

Attorney General Bonta: California Schools Will Remain a Welcoming, Inclusive, Safe Place for All



An announcement from California Attorney General Rob Bonta:

California Attorney General Rob Bonta today issued a statement on President Trump's [executive order](#) targeting transgender, nonbinary, intersex, and gender nonconforming students:

“California will continue to create a welcoming environment for all students, including transgender and gender nonconforming students. The federal government sets a floor, not a ceiling when it comes to civil rights protections — and California law has always provided additional protections beyond those that exist at the federal level. Those protections remain firmly in place.

The right to equality in education and equal protection under the law is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. California’s Constitution sets its own separate and strong standards that clearly establish transgender and gender nonconforming individuals as a protected class. The President’s order attempts to undermine this fundamental right by threatening to prosecute educators for fulfilling their duty to provide equal education opportunities and protect the students under their care, explicitly targeting one of the most vulnerable groups of students in our country.

Discrimination has no place in the classroom. The President’s executive order attempts to erode the sanctity of schools as a place where children learn and grow. Let me be clear: School curriculum and instructional materials are a state and local decision. The federal government does not have authority to dictate what is taught in California.

California law requires that K-12 schools provide inclusive curriculum that reflect the roles and contributions of our diverse population, including all genders, races, person with disabilities, and members of other ethnic, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic status groups. We know that it is this culture of inclusion that has enabled us to become a hub of innovation and the fifth largest economy in the world.

As Attorney General, I am committed to standing up for the rights of all California students, including transgender and gender nonconforming students. I stand firmly behind California educators who work tirelessly to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for all of their students.

The President continues to use his powers to attempt to strike fear in and target the most vulnerable groups in our society. I understand that his executive orders are concerning, but I want to emphasize that California law remains unchanged. We will not be frightened or cowed by the President's threats. We will not abandon our values. And we certainly will have no part in executing the President's agenda. California's resources will not be used to target teachers and school officials merely complying with the law."

Resources for School Officials

- California Department of Justice's [Guidance to School Officials on Forced Disclosure Policies re: Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students](#)
- California Department of Justice's [Guidance to School Officials re: Legal Requirements for Providing Inclusive Curricula and Books](#)
- California Department of Justice's [Health Equity and Civil Rights webpage](#)
- California Department of Justice's [LGBTQ+ Discrimination Rights webpage](#)
- [Transgender, Gender Diverse, and Intersex \(TGI\) Inclusive Care Act](#)
- California Department of Health Care Services' [Medi-Cal State Inmate Program and Medi-Cal County Inmate Program webpage](#)
- California Civil Rights Department's [The Rights of Employees Who Are Transgender or Gender Nonconforming fact sheet](#)
- California Department of Insurance's [Equal Access to Health Insurance: Coverage for Transgender Californians webpage](#)
- California Department of Managed Health Care's [TGI Care webpage](#)

If you believe your rights are being violated as part of the enforcement of the President's executive order, you can file a complaint with the California Attorney General's Office [here](#) or with the California Civil Rights Department [here](#).

Vallejo Police Department's Commitment to Community Trust and Public Safety



From the Vallejo Police Department:

The Vallejo Police Department (VPD) prioritizes public safety for all residents, regardless of immigration status. As guided by California law (SB 54) and our policies, we do not engage in federal civil immigration enforcement, hold individuals

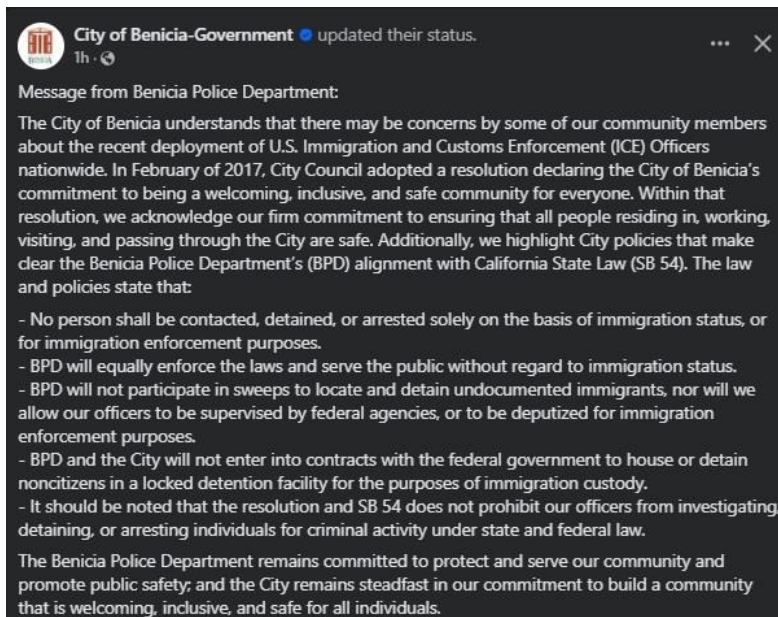
solely based on their immigration status, or assist in immigration operations.

"Vallejo is a city built on diversity, and our strength comes from our unity," said Mayor Andrea Sorce. "We want every resident to feel safe engaging with their police department, knowing that our officers are here to serve and protect without regard to immigration status. Trust is the foundation of public safety, and we remain committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive community for all."

VPD does not collect or maintain information on immigration status and will not prolong or facilitate detentions based solely on immigration holds. Our priority is public safety, and we remain dedicated to strengthening trust with our community.

For media inquiries, please contact Public Information Officer Sgt. Rashad Hollis by email at VallejoPolicePIO@cityofvallejo.net or by phone at (707) 567-4233.

Message from the Benicia Police Department



City of Benicia-Government updated their status. 1h · 🌐

Message from Benicia Police Department:

The City of Benicia understands that there may be concerns by some of our community members about the recent deployment of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Officers nationwide. In February of 2017, City Council adopted a resolution declaring the City of Benicia's commitment to being a welcoming, inclusive, and safe community for everyone. Within that resolution, we acknowledge our firm commitment to ensuring that all people residing in, working, visiting, and passing through the City are safe. Additionally, we highlight City policies that make clear the Benicia Police Department's (BPD) alignment with California State Law (SB 54). The law and policies state that:

- No person shall be contacted, detained, or arrested solely on the basis of immigration status, or for immigration enforcement purposes.
- BPD will equally enforce the laws and serve the public without regard to immigration status.
- BPD will not participate in sweeps to locate and detain undocumented immigrants, nor will we allow our officers to be supervised by federal agencies, or to be deputized for immigration enforcement purposes.
- BPD and the City will not enter into contracts with the federal government to house or detain noncitizens in a locked detention facility for the purposes of immigration custody.
- It should be noted that the resolution and SB 54 does not prohibit our officers from investigating, detaining, or arresting individuals for criminal activity under state and federal law.

The Benicia Police Department remains committed to protect and serve our community and promote public safety; and the City remains steadfast in our commitment to build a community that is welcoming, inclusive, and safe for all individuals.

February is Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by Black people and a time to recognize their central role in history.



Learn about and honor Black History Month with books, movies, music, programs, and digital resources from the Solano County Library.

For a listing of featured events, click [here](#).

The San Francisco Chronicle also provided a listing of ten books to read during Black History Month. To view the list, click [here](#).

African Americans and Mental Health



What happens at the intersection of mental health and one's experience as a member of the Black community? While the experience of being Black in America varies tremendously, there are shared cultural factors that play a role in helping define mental health and supporting well-being, resiliency and healing.

Parts of this shared cultural experience — family connections, values, expression through spirituality or music, reliance on community and religious networks — are enriching and can be great sources of strength and support. However, another part of this shared experience — being subject to racism, discrimination and inequity — can significantly affect a person's mental health. Being treated or perceived as "less than" because of the color of your skin can be stressful and even traumatizing. Additionally, members of the Black community face structural challenges accessing the care and treatment they need.

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

Construction of Soundwall in Vacaville Necessitates Daytime Closures of Westbound I-80 Davis Street Onramp and Offramp



Caltrans and partner agencies are constructing a soundwall along Hickory Lane near the Davis Street/Interstate 80 onramp and offramp in Vacaville.

Heavy machinery used to complete this work will require occasional daytime closures of the onramp and offramp beginning **Monday, February 10**. Local residents should also expect noise and dust during construction.

Work on this project has already begun and is expected to be complete by Spring 2025. Most work is expected to take place during normal daytime working hours. Occasional overnight closures of the Davis Street onramp and offramp may also be required. Crews have installed temporary concrete moveable barriers along Hickory Lane.

This work is related to the ongoing construction of the I-80 Solano Express Lanes Project.

Westbound I-80 Express Lane in Vacaville opening as temporary HOV lane ahead of formal launch in late 2025



The new westbound Interstate 80 (I-80) express lane between Vacaville and Fairfield will soon be open to California motorists as a temporary high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane.

If all goes according to plan, we expect to pull up the barriers and cones currently occupying the lane by **mid-February**. Here's what you need to know about temporary access:

- Caltrans has made substantial progress on the express lane project, but the tolling equipment won't be fully up and running until late 2025 at the earliest
- In the meantime, Caltrans will soon open the far-left lane on westbound I-80 between the I-505 interchange and Airbase Parkway to high-occupancy vehicles, better known as carpool vehicles, with two or more travelers during posted hours.

- Caltrans is currently in the final stages of installing HOV signage and striping the road. Once that is done, we will make a final announcement and open the temporary HOV lane.
- Once open, the lane will be available to vehicles with two or more people on board on weekdays from 5 to 10 a.m. and 3 to 7 p.m.
- Outside of those hours, the lane will be open to all
- Work to install tolling equipment will continue throughout this period, typically through overnight lane closures. As always, we ask motorists to please be mindful of their speed for the safety of our workers
- We expect to formally launch the completed express lane by late 2025. Until then, please enjoy the extra room on westbound Interstate 80 beginning in mid-February

To watch a short video about the project, click [here](#).

Public meetings

2 X 2 Committee of Vallejo City Council and Vallejo school board



Representatives of the Vallejo City Council (Mayor Andrea Sorce, and Councilman Diosdado "J.R." Matulac) will meet with two members of the Vallejo school board (President John Fox, and Vice President Glenn Amboy) to

discuss topics that affect both agencies.

The meeting will start at 4:30 p.m., Monday, February 10, inside the Vallejo City Council Chambers, 555 Santa Clara Street.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Nebraska Street status update for permanent closure
- Public Safety update
- Immigration Enforcement

To view the agenda, click [here](#).

VCUSD Board of Education narrows down school closure and consolidation options

On Wednesday, Jan. 22, the Vallejo City Unified School District (VCUSD) held a Governing Board Study Session to address the critical



issue of school closures and consolidations. After further evaluation, the board identified three amenable options to move forward with and instructed staff to draft resolutions for a vote at the Feb. 19 regular board meeting.

The proposed options, set to take effect at the start of the 2025-26 school year, include the following:

1. **Mare Island Health and Fitness Academy Closure and Relocation of Vallejo Charter School:** Mare Island Health and Fitness Academy will close. Vallejo Charter School will move to the Mare Island campus for the 2025-26 school year. The district would repurpose the Vallejo Charter School property.
2. **Reconfiguration of Loma Vista Environmental Science Academy:** Grades 6-8 would move to Solano Widenmann Leadership Academy, converting Loma Vista into a TK-5 school. The district will convert the middle school's current space for expanded learning programs or other needs, such as professional development.
3. **Closure of Loma Vista Environmental Science Academy:** The district will close the entire school and allocate the space for district use, excluding the farm.

Additionally, discussions touched on the potential future consolidation of Pennycook Elementary and Steffan Manor Elementary into a single school and the closure and/or consolidation of Federal Terrace Elementary and Lincoln Elementary. However, these actions would not occur in this initial phase of cuts but are being considered for the 2026-27 school year and beyond.

"We understand that these decisions significantly affect families, and we remain committed to prioritizing student success and equity throughout this process," said VCUSD Superintendent Rubén Aurelio. "Our goal is to maintain fiscal responsibility while providing high-quality educational opportunities."

Discussions about school closures and consolidations stem from a steady decline in enrollment, ongoing deficit spending, and the district's commitment to improving academic outcomes for all students.

To accommodate a larger audience, the Board of Education will hold its Feb. 19 meeting at Mare Island Health and Fitness Academy, located at 400 Rickover St, Vallejo, CA 94592.

The public portion of the meeting will begin at 6 p.m. and will be live streamed on the district's [YouTube page](#) for those unable to attend in person. Spanish translation services will be provided. For accommodations, please contact the superintendent's office at 707-556-8921 x50002.

VCUSD encourages all community members to stay informed and participate in upcoming discussions. For more information, to view the recording of the study session, or to provide feedback, visit the [district's closure and consolidation website](#).

Solano County Caregiver Forum



SOLANO COUNTY CAREGIVER FORUM

PRESENTED BY THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Wednesday, March 26, 2025
9 a.m. to Noon
Solano County Events Center,
Conference Room A, 601 Texas St.
Fairfield, CA 94533
Register at
tinyurl.com/SCCGForum25
or call 800.272.3900.
Registration is required.



Presentations will include information on Alzheimer's disease and other dementia, research advancements, caregiving strategies, caregiver self-care, recent legislative policy successes, and local community resources. Light refreshments will be served.

Please feel free to reach out to Stefanie Bonigut, sbonigut@alz.org or 925.290.7911 if you have any questions.

FEATURED PRESENTATIONS



ADVANCING THE SCIENCE: THE LATEST IN ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA RESEARCH

CLAIRE DAY - Chief Mission and Program Strategy Officer, Alzheimer's Association, Northern California & Northern Nevada

Claire Day has been on the staff of the Alzheimer's Association since 2001. She oversees all care and support, DEL operations, and research initiatives for Northern California & Northern Nevada. Ms. Day is a clinical social worker and received her degree from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. She has more than twenty-five years of experience as a family and professional educator in dementia care.



2024 CALIFORNIA STATE POLICY SUCCESSES

JESSICA ROTHHAAR - Senior Public Policy Manager, Alzheimer's Association, Northern California & Northern Nevada

Jessica Rothhaar helps people who have been personally impacted by Alzheimer's and other dementia share their stories with elected officials to advance Alzheimer's research, care and support. She has over 20 years of experience in public policy advocacy, and is deeply committed to giving a voice to people living with Alzheimer's and their loved ones to drive policy change.



BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN THE PERSON LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

DAVID TROXEL, MPH - Writer and Consultant; Co-author, *The Best Friends Approach to Dementia Care*

David Troxel is an internationally known expert in Alzheimer's disease and memory care. An informative and engaging speaker, David holds a Masters Degree in Public Health from Rutgers Medical School (now UMDNJ/Robert Wood Johnson Medical School). During his 25 years in the field, he has also served as an Executive Board member of the American Public Health Association and a member of the Ethics Advisory Panel for the Alzheimer's Association. David has co-authored six influential books (most notably, *The Best Friends™ Approach to Dementia Care*) relating to dementia care as well as staff development and training.



CHARGING YOUR BATTERY - CAREGIVER SELF-CARE STRATEGIES

RAENIKA BUTLER - Senior Manager of Community Engagement, Alzheimer's Association, Northern California & Northern Nevada

Raenika Butler provides support and education to caregivers and individuals affected by Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia. She has a Master of Arts in Gerontology and over 12 years of experience in the field of aging with a previous background in adult day health care and geriatric care management. Raenika is deeply dedicated to helping improve the lives of older adults and their communities of support, and she continues to make a significant impact in the community.

To register, click [here](#).

Updates from around Solano County

A message from Solano County



Starting March 1, all Solano County email addresses will transition from the current @solanocounty.com to @solanocounty.gov. The shift to .gov domains aligns with state regulations ([Assembly Bill 1637](#)) and ensures communications are recognized as official and

trustworthy. Please be sure to update your contacts and communications accordingly.

NAACP Vallejo Branch #1081: Pastor and Clergy meeting

NAACP VALLEJO BRANCH #1081

PASTORS CLERGY

NAACP
Vallejo Branch

VM
VALLEJO
NAVAL & HISTORICAL
MUSEUM

Religious Affairs Meeting
FEBRUARY 20, 2025 AT 6:30 PM
VALLEJO NAVAL AND HISTORICAL MUSEUM
734 MARIN STREET VALLEJO CA 94590

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERS ARE MOTIVATED BY
CREATING A POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

The poster features a central portrait of a man with a beard, rendered in a blue and white artistic style. The background is dark blue with light blue diagonal lines. The text is primarily in white and yellow, with some blue accents.

The NAACP Vallejo Branch #1081 will be hosting members of the North Bay Minister Union along with local Pastors and clergy re: public safety and other topics at **6:30 p.m., Thursday, February 20** at the **Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum, located at 734 Marin Street** in downtown Vallejo.

GVRD Skate/Bike Park survey

GREATER VALLEJO RECREATION DISTRICT

WARDLAW SKATEPARK

COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY

SCAN ME

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO TAKE OUR ONLINE SURVEY.

www.gvrd.org (707) 648-4600

Parks Make Life Better!

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING IN-PERSON MEETING DATES COMING IN 2025.

The Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) wants to hear from you about the Wardlaw Skatepark. To view the survey, click [here](#).

Fairfield Police Department launches upgraded Transparency Portal



From the city of Fairfield:

Fairfield Police Department has long been committed to transparency, integrity, and the community. In a demonstration of our continued commitment to those very things, we are pleased to announce the launch of an upgraded, more intuitive iteration of our existing Transparency Portal.

The new portal will replace the one currently found on the city website and offer members of the community an even more user-friendly interface for exploring crime statistics.

“The trust between law enforcement agencies and the people we serve is a privilege,” said Police Chief Dan Marshall. “The people of Fairfield trust us. They trust we will uphold our responsibility to protect and not harm them. They trust we will treat everyone fairly and equitably. And we trust them to hold us accountable. This portal, and ensuring vital information and statistics are more accessible to community members, will play a large part in ensuring the community’s trust in us is warranted and well earned.”

The city of Fairfield recognizes the critical role transparency plays in effecting equitable and effective policing and heralds the platform as a vital tool many will find helpful.

“When it comes to nourishing the collaborative relationship between law enforcement and the community, transparency is absolutely essential,” said City Manager David Gassaway. “This hub ensures the necessary information is right at community members’ fingertips, making it another powerful tool for maintaining trust and ensuring accountability.”

The PD Transparency Portal is now live and can be accessed at www.fairfield.ca.gov/transparency

Clean HEET Program from the BAAQMD



The Clean Heating Efficiently with Electric Technology (Clean HEET) Program was developed by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) to reduce wintertime wood smoke pollution and improve air quality by incentivizing Bay Area homeowners to replace qualifying wood-burning devices with electric heat pumps.

To learn more, click [here](#).

Glow in the Dark mini golf

**GLOW-IN-THE-DARK
MINI GOLF
FOR TWEENS & TEENS***

Tweens & Teens ages 11-18, register for
a round of after hours
Glow-in-the-Dark Mini Golf!

You're sure to have a whale of a time!

**SATURDAY, MARCH 8
6 - 8 PM**

**Pre-registration required.
Registration opens February 8 at 12:00 PM*

FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

 **Solano County
LIBRARY**

Web: solanolibrary.com
Phone: 1-866-572-7587
f @ o s. solanolibrary

On Saturday, March 8, tweens/teens between the ages of 11 and 18 are invited to the Fairfield Civic Center Library (1150 Kentucky Street) to join in on a game of glow in the dark mini golf for tweens/teens!

**This program will take place after hours from 6-8pm.
Preregistration is required and opens on Saturday, February 8
at 12 p.m.**

No group registrations. Only one person per sign up. To register, click [here](#).

Solano County Water Agency accepting entries for Water Awareness Video Contest



15TH ANNUAL SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY
WATER AWARENESS VIDEO CONTEST

THIS YEAR'S THEME:
**The Water Cycle:
Why we need to
Think Outside the Sink**

Create a one-minute public service announcement video explaining how we can all work together to conserve water on a broad scale.

We encourage students to think about ALL the different ways people, industries, and institutions use water.

FOR 6TH - 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

CASH PRIZES AWARDED FOR OVERALL WINNERS & SPONSORING TEACHERS

LEARN MORE 

OR VISIT WWW.SCWA2.COM

Submissions open	Contest deadline
January 6, 2025	March 18, 2025



The Solano County Water Agency is now accepting entries from Solano County students in grades 6 through 12 and their sponsoring teachers for the Water Agency's 15th annual video contest. Winning entries will receive up to \$1,500.

This year's theme is The Water Cycle: Why We Need to Think Outside the Sink. The contest is challenging students to explore the need for Solano County residents to think globally and act locally in order to conserve water.

Students should create a one-minute public service announcement video explaining how we can all work together to conserve water on a broad scale. In their PSAs, we encourage students to think about all the different ways people, industries, and institutions use water, and to offer creative conservation steps for individuals and our society at-large to take.

This year, the Solano County Water Agency will award prizes of \$1,500 to the first-place video, \$1,000 to the second-place video, and \$500 to the third-place video. Additionally, the winning entry from each school with ten or more submissions will be awarded a

\$100 gift card. The three teachers who generate the most student participation in the contest will each win a \$200 gift card.

Entries will be judged by a panel of water efficiency experts and community leaders for content, accuracy, and response to the assigned theme; entertainment value and originality; videography, style and organization; and audio/sound quality.

Complete information about the 2025 video contest, water conservation information, samples of past winning videos, and the 2025 entry packet is available by clicking [here](#).


Entries can be submitted through e-mail to Education@solanorcd.org, via Google Drive using the form found on the contest website, or on a USB flash drive via US mail or delivered in person to the Solano Resource Conservation District office in Dixon.

Release forms and entry forms must accompany video submissions in order for them to be considered.

All entries and paperwork must be received by Tuesday, March 18, at 5 p.m.

Contact Shea Kinser at Solano Resource Conservation District at shea.kinser@solanorcd.org with questions or for more information.


February update for Solano Resource Conservation District Agency Champions



This year *we're engaging 63 schools* across Solano County. Without your help in securing support, *85% of these schools risk losing access* to nature-based, water education programming. Our students reside in built environments, and their opportunities to interact with the natural world are dwindling. To ensure the future of our county's treasured resources, we must foster a deep connection between students and our open spaces and water resources. This requires a concerted effort to strengthen our partnerships and leverage our combined resources to secure the future of these programs.

See where you are making an impact!

Benicia: Benicia High Benicia Middle Joe Henderson Mary Farmer Matthew Turner Robert Semple	Fairfield: Armpjo B. Gale Wilson Chao Gordon Cordelia Hills David Weir Dover Early College High Fairfield High Fairview Green Valley Middle Leland Creek Nelda Mundy Oakbrook Academy	Public Safety Academy Rodriguez High Rolling Hills Sam Yeto High Suisun Valley Sullivan Language Immersion Academy Travis Education Center Travis Elementary Vanden High	Suisun City: Crescent Dan O Root Suisun Elementary	Sierra Vista Travis Education Center Vacaville High Will C. Wood	Loma Vista Environmental Science Academy Mare Island Technology Academy Pennycook Solano Widermann Leadership Academy St. Basil School Steffan Manor Vallejo High
Dixon: Dixon High Dixon Montessori Gretchen Higgins John Knight	Rio Vista: DH White	Vacaville: Cambridge Cooper Edwin Markham Eugene Padan Fairmont Charter Foxboro Jean Callison Orchard	Vallejo: Dan Mini Elmer Cave Language Academy Glen Cove Grace Patterson Highland Jesse Bethel Johnston Cooper		



Vallejo accepting applications for 2025 Citizens Academy



The city of Vallejo is pleased to announce the 2025 Citizens Academy, aimed at empowering residents with valuable insights into city government and its operations.

The Vallejo Citizens Academy, an 11-week interactive educational course, is designed to foster civic engagement, enabling participants to make a meaningful impact on our community. This will be the second year of the program, after a successful first year.

"I'd like to encourage our residents to participate in the Citizens Academy and help improve Vallejo through knowledge of City services and sharing this knowledge with the Community," said City Manager Andrew Murray. "After learning about our departments and meeting with Directors, we also hope to attract more skilled and talented Vallejoans to join our Staff in making a difference."

What is The Vallejo Citizens Academy?

The Vallejo Citizens Academy is a comprehensive program set to span 11 weeks*, providing Vallejo residents with an in-depth understanding of City government and, more specifically, how the City of Vallejo operates. By offering this knowledge, the Academy aims to empower individuals to actively participate in the daily life of Vallejo, engage in the political landscape, and share vital information with their neighbors. Participants will gain a deeper insight into all City Departments, discovering aspects of the City's operations they may not have been aware of before.

The Vallejo Citizens Academy is set to begin on March 5. Classes will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Vallejo Room, located below the JFK Library. To ensure an interactive and engaging experience, class size will be limited to 25 participants. A nominal fee of \$25 will cover the cost of materials and light snacks provided throughout the duration of the program.

For more information and to submit your application, visit www.myvallejo.com/CitizensAcademy.

The class meets twice a month from March - July (plus graduation in July) 2025

February events hosted by Fairfield PAL Teen Center

Fairfield PAL is getting ready for a February packed with fun, food, and unforgettable moments at the Fairfield PAL Teen Center! This

month, there will be fun with programs, amazing partnerships, and exciting new activities for teens aged 13–18 from Fairfield, Suisun, and Travis. Check out the calendar full of events such as Cookies & Canvas, Boxing & Kajukenbo, Girls Circle, TikTok Taste Cooking, Squid Games-Inspired Competition, games galore and so much more.

To view the calendar, click [here](#).

Success with Diabetes Program hosted by Touro University



Touro University California Diabetes Services will provide the success with diabetes program.

A free in-person 6-week program to help you learn how to live a healthier life with diabetes. **Sessions are offered in English at The Joseph Nelson Community Center located at 611 Village Dr., Suisun City, CA 94585 every Wednesday starting March 5 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Sessions are offered in Spanish at Family Health Services located at 1119 E Monte Vista Ave., Vacaville, CA 95688 every Wednesday starting February 26 at 4 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register for both languages.

2025 Teen Photo Contest

Eligibility: Any teen age 12-18 in Solano County



Contest Period: Submit entries February 3- March 10 by 9 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

Prizes:

- 10 winning photos (1 from each photo category) will be displayed in our library branches. Category winners may request to keep the print of their winning photo from the library branch of their choice.

How to Enter:

- **Email:** Send your photos to teentechsolano@gmail.com. Include your Name, City, photo Category, and Title of Photo (optional).
- **Instagram:** Use [#sclphotocontest2025](https://www.instagram.com/sclphotocontest2025). Include your Name, City, Photo Category, and Title of Photo (optional).

Important: Make sure your privacy settings allow the Instagram account 'Solanolibrary' to see your submissions.

Contest Rules: You may submit one entry per category. Solano Library staff or its guest judges shall choose the winners from all entrants who have submitted an entry during the submission period. Winners shall be selected based upon which submissions are the most original, artistic and/or funny expression of the theme and category. The decision of the library is final. Prize winners will be notified by email or Instagram on or before March 29. Entrants will only be eligible to win one category each year.

Photo Categories

Architecture
Album Covers
Animals
Food/Drinks
Library (pictures of the inside/outside of your favorite library)
Nature
People & Portraits
Special Effects
Sports
Travel/ Landscapes

Library Use of Entries: By entering your work, you acknowledge that Solano Library shall have the right to use, modify, reproduce, publish, display, distribute, or make derivative works of Entry Materials for promotional or any other purposes.

Original Work: You hereby warrant and represent that (a) you own all rights to all Entry Materials submitted by you; and (b) all such Entry Materials are original works of authorship on your part and have not been copied, in whole or in part, from any other work and do not violate, misappropriate or infringe any copyright, trademark or other proprietary right of any other person or entity. You hereby verify that you will provide full written permission of any recognizable person, and their guardian if they are a minor, who are depicted in your Entry Materials.

Free COVID tests at the Benicia Library



Free COVID antigen tests are available at the Benicia Public Library for anyone who needs them. Each package contains two tests.

Limit two packages (4 tests) per person per visit while supplies last.

These tests have been provided by the California Department of Public Health.

The library is located 150 E L Street.

Ekphrastic - Fairfield

*Suzanne Bruce, Fairfield Poet Laureate Emerita
and the Fairfield-Suisun City Visual Arts Association
invite you to write a poem to an art piece*

Exhibit: Show Me Your Color



Spotlight Artist: Dennis Ariza

Exhibit dates: January 8 through February 23, 2025
Solano Town Center Gallery:
1350 Travis Blvd #D-8 (inside the Town Center Mall)

Art Reception and Poetry Reading:

Saturday, January 18, 2025
Art Reception- 3:00-6:00pm
Poetry Reading- 5:00-6:00pm

Art can be seen at the Gallery
Wednesday through Sunday 11:00am – 6:00pm (recommended)

Or online, beginning January 7th:
www.fvaa-arts.org click on Gallery

Please send your poem, **42 lines or less**
to Suzanne: fairfieldpoetlaureate.emerita@gmail.com
by Thursday, January 16th- 5:00pm

Send preferably in a word doc. No picture of art necessary
Do put the name of the art and artist's name with your poem

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

Solano County jobs

Positions	Job Posting Opened
Assistant Auditor-Controller	02/04/2025
Chief Deputy Auditor-Controller	02/04/2025
Juvenile Correctional Counselor Manager	02/05/2025

NOTE: To be considered for the recruitment(s) listed above you must submit an application by the date indicated in the job announcement. The new eligible list(s) resulting from the above recruitment(s) may replace an existing eligible list; therefore, interested candidates are encouraged to apply for the current recruitment.

If you have any questions regarding the recruitments listed above, please contact the assigned HR Analyst listed in the job posting.

For general inquiries, please contact recruitment@solanocounty.gov.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in learning more about any of the positions below or about the other career opportunities, check out our [Job Opportunities](#)

For more information about the changes within the Solano County Auditor-Controller's Office, click [here](#).

February calendar for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall



The February calendar of events for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall:

February 7: VFW Hamburgers

9 Superbowl party, we open at noon, game time after 1500; National Salute to Veteran Patients week of 9 to 15

11 Boys Under the Hood meeting, Hot dogs

12 AMERICAN LEGION / AUX meet at 1900 hours, Judy's Hot dogs

14 VFW Auxiliary Hamburgers; Valentine's Day

17 President's Day

18 House commission meeting 1830 hrs.

19 SONS AMERICAN LEGION meet at 1900 hours; Judy's Hot dogs; birthday of the United States Coast Guard Reserve

21 American Legion Hamburgers 28 Sons of The American Legion Hamburgers; Ramadan, from Feb. 28 to Mar. 29

The Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall is located at 1150 1st Street in downtown Benicia.

Winter Shelter at BayNorth Church of Christ



BayNorth Church of Christ will be providing a winter shelter for city of Fairfield residents who are unhoused.

The winter shelter will operate each night **through March 31, 2025. The intake process will be from 6:30 to 8 pm and the shelter exit time will be 6 am each morning. Those**

needing shelter are allowed to line up starting at 6 pm.

The winter shelter will be filled on a first come, first served basis each night with a limited capacity of ten. Individuals needing shelter must be able to independently manage activities of daily living and agree to comply with program guidelines. There will be limited space for personal belongings.

The winter shelter address is 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, and the phone number is (707) 260-9794.

FAST will provide free bus rides to the winter shelter on FAST route 3 from 6 to 7 pm Monday-Friday. Those who need a ride will need to board the bus at the Fairfield Transportation Center and let the driver know they are going to the winter shelter. Exit the bus at Solano Town Center, make a left on Pennsylvania Ave. and walk one block to Bay North Church of Christ.

Upcoming events in Solano County

Trash Mob

The city of Fairfield, in partnership with Sullivan Language Immersion Academy's Parent Teacher Organization are seeking volunteers to help with a Trash Mob on **Saturday, February 8 from 9 to 11 a.m., along the Linear Trail next to the school.**

Volunteers can park in the school parking lot at 2195 Union Avenue.



Snacks, water, and all supplies will be provided. Wear comfortable shoes (NO CROCS) and long pants. Public Works will be onsite to collect the full trash bags.

Contact Karen Rees to register at krees@fairfield.ca.gov or call (707) 428-7767. Volunteers must complete a waiver form. For those under age 18, a parent or guardian signature is required.

Benicia's Third Annual State of the City



On February 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the city of Benicia and the Benicia Chamber of Commerce will host the Third Annual State of the City, presented by Mayor Steve Young and City Manager Mario Giuliani.

The event will be held at the Benicia Clock Tower, 1189 Washington Street.

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

State of the City Event to unveil “Blueprint for a Brighter Future”

The poster is blue with white and light blue text. At the top left is the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce logo. At the top right is the Fairfield logo. The main text reads: "FAIRFIELD-SUISUN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS: STATE OF THE CITY BLUEPRINT FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE PRESENTATION AND BREAKFAST WITH:". Below this, three speakers are listed with their names and titles, each accompanied by a small portrait photo. The speakers are Catherine "Cat" Moy (Mayor), David Gassaway (City Manager), and Lisa Bonnington (Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce). At the bottom, the website "WWW.FAIRFIELD.CA.GOV/TICKETS" is displayed in a stylized font.

The Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the city of Fairfield, invites the community to the State of the City Event,

"Blueprint for a Brighter Future," on **February 20 from 8 to 10 a.m.** at the Hilton Garden Inn, 2200 The Courtyard in Fairfield.


Mayor Catherine "Cat" Moy, City Manager David Gassaway, and Chamber President Lisa Bonnington will host the event, which will include breakfast, a State of the City presentation, and a panel with local business and sector leaders. Discussions will focus on key topics such as Fairfield's economic climate, commerce, growth, manufacturing, workforce development, and real estate trends.

Registration is now open for attendees at \$55 per person. Space is limited, so interested individuals are encouraged to secure their spots now.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to gain a broader perspective of the city of Fairfield's achievements and future endeavors.

For tickets and reservations, click [here](#).

Medicare Fundamentals



Welcome to this Free & Unbiased seminar
from the only agency authorized
by the CA Dept. of Aging to
offer Medicare seminars

Medicare

Fundamentals

Join the Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Programs (HICAP) for a free Medicare education class, the only agency authorized by the California Department of Aging, to offer Medicare Seminars. HICAP does not sell or endorse insurance products

Medicare is as "easy" to understand as taxes. Ok, so it's not so easy. Question: Who's responsibility is your healthcare? Gain a detailed understanding of Medicare so you can be more informed when you step out there and have to deal with agents and plans. We will cover all the parts of inpatient coverage, outpatient coverage, prescription plan choices, Medigap supplemental products, managed care nuances and more.

The event will take place on Wednesday, February 26, from 11 a.m. to noon inside the Benicia Senior Center, 187 E. L Street

Registration not required.

Speaker Series: Cryptology



Author Ralph Simpson will discuss over 2000 years of cipher evolution, starting with Julius Caesar and continuing to today with modern public key cryptography.

Throughout human history, militaries of the world have succeeded or failed based on the security of their communications. Mr. Simpson will join the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation to explain the role of cryptology in that history, what it is, and how it has impacted the world.

This is your chance to not only learn about this fascinating subject, but you will also have the opportunity to see and touch a captured German Enigma Machine from World War II.

See the promotional video

at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WON01MNNnB4>

The event will be held on Sunday, March 2, at 3 p.m., inside St. Peter's Chapel, 1181 Walnut Avenue on Mare Island in the city of Vallejo.

Tickets can be purchased by clicking [here](#).

Open Mare Island



OPEN
Mare Island

SUNDAY MARCH 9
12-2PM
FREE SELF-GUIDED
WALKING TOUR

Admiral's Mansion
Alden Park
St. Peter's Chapel

...AND MORE!

PICK UP YOUR MAP & COFFEE COUPON AT:
• THE QUARTERS COFFEE HOUSE
• 1015 WALNUT AVE

RSVP HERE:
WWW.MIHPE.ORG/EVENTS

To RSVP, click [here](#).

Women in Construction

LEVELING THE FIELD: Recruiting Women In Construction

NOR CAL
CARPENTERS
TRAINING

TRADESWOMEN INC.

FOCUS

NOR CAL
CARPENTERS
UNION

**WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION
CAREER EVENT**
RSVP BY MARCH 9TH, 2025

Fairfield Training Center
800 CHADBOURNE RD.
FAIRFIELD, CA. 94534
(707) 339.2880

ALL are welcome to attend

FRIDAY MARCH 21ST, 2025
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

- CARPENTERS
- ACOUSTICAL INSTALLERS
- DRYWALL/LATHERS
- INSTALL FLOOR LAYERS
- INSULATORS
- MILLMEN & CABINET MAKERS
- MODULAR SYSTEMS INSTALLER
- PILE DRIVERS
- SCAFFOLD ERECTORS
- MILLWRIGHTS

TANK TOPS, SHORTS, CUT-OFF PANTS AND OPEN TOE SHOES NOT PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN HANDS-ON EXERCISES

Fairfield Training Center is offering the Women in Construction career event happening on **Friday, March 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in-person at the Fairfield Training Center located at 800 Chadbourne Rd., Fairfield, CA 94534.**

All people are welcome to attend and must pre-register by Sunday, March 9th [here](#).

Girls on the Rise



On **Saturday, March 22**, from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, the Solano County Event Center will host Girls on the Rise, an inspiring in-person event designed to empower young women (ages 15–25) to explore exciting career paths in Law, STEM, Business, and First Responder professions. **The Solano County Event Center is located at 601 Texas Street in downtown Fairfield.**

This unique event brings together influential women leaders, hands-on experiences, and thought-provoking discussions to help attendees uncover the limitless possibilities awaiting them in their professional journeys. Whether you're a high school student, recent graduate, or someone curious about these dynamic fields, Girls on the Rise is your gateway to inspiration and discovery.

Event Highlights:

1. **Connect with Trailblazers:** Engage with accomplished women leaders who will share their stories, offer career guidance, and inspire the next generation of changemakers.
2. **Gain Valuable Insights:** Learn about diverse career opportunities through interactive discussions and actionable advice tailored to help you succeed.
3. **Step Inside the Legal World:** Experience a courtroom tour to gain a firsthand understanding of the legal system and how it shapes our communities.

This second annual event is proudly supported by the Solano Superior Court, the Solano County Bar Association, and the Solano Commission for Women and Girls.

To Register, scan the QR code above.

For more information, contact Julie Hilt at (707) 290-0955
or SCBA@SolanoBar.org

Speaker Series: All Things Organ

Join the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation in “All Things Organ” and surround yourselves in the resonant and inspiring sounds of the beautiful St. Peter’s Chapel Pipe Organ, the fourth pipe organ installed in 1966. The chapel organ is carefully and expertly maintained by the internationally famous Schoenstein & Co. (Est. 1877), organ builders, of Benicia.

Presenters include the world-renowned Jack Bethards, Chairman and Tonal Advisor for Schoenstein & Co., and Bret Barner, a skilled chapel organist, who frequently showcases his expertise and artistry through organ performances during special chapel events. This event will bring together the rich history of the Chapel organ accompanied by musical demonstrations that showcase its sublime sound. The occasion will highlight the organ’s evolution over time, from its inception to its present-day operation, and feature performances that exhibit its remarkable tonal capabilities. By combining historical context with live music, the event promises to be a unique and enriching experience, allowing attendees to appreciate the Chapel organ’s beauty and significance.

The event will take place on Sunday, April 13, from 4 to 5 p.m., at St. Peter's Chapel, 1181 Walnut Avenue on Mare Island in the city of Vallejo.

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

Events I attended this week

Monday evening, February 3, I attended the American Legion National Commander Dinner held at the Vacaville Veterans Memorial Building. Jeff: Thank you for the invitation.

Tuesday, February 4, I attended the Benicia City Council meeting. The main topic was the Public Safety Ordinance.

To review the staff report and other materials from the meeting, click [here](#).

The Benicia City Council will meet in closed session on Tuesday, February 11 at 5 p.m. to discuss Valero's comments on the Draft #3 Benicia Industrial Health and Safety Ordinance. To view the comments, click [here](#).

Wednesday, February 5, was my first Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board of Directors meeting held in its usual

place on Beale Street in San Francisco. The meeting starts at 10 a.m.

I take the train, (7: 24 am) Capitol Corridor, pick up the Amtrak bus at the Emeryville Station and get dropped off near the Sales Force building. Then return. The whole adventure takes the entire day. One item discussed was: A CALL TO ACTION to Chart a New Course Toward Environmental Justice. I will keep you informed as I learn more about my new position.

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

The Alibi Clock in downtown Vallejo. To learn more about the clock, click [here](#). 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.