



June 30, 2023

SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER



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**Declaration of Independence**

Tuesday July 4, 2023 is the day we will celebrate our Declaration of Independence from Great Britain. The Declaration lists the grievances we had with the King of Great Britain. Take the time to re-read the Declaration.

Thomas Jefferson said "Let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollection of these Rights, and an undiminished devotion to them"

Have a wonderful day with the Family and Friends. Happy 4th

**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**

Also, a reminder that fireworks are illegal!! Heat, fireworks, and weeds don't mix.

All city and county services will be closed on Tuesday for the 4th of July holiday.

### Three VCUSD Schools Receive Notable Accreditation Distinctions

Congratulations are in order for three Vallejo City Unified School District (VCUSD) schools which received six-year accreditation status from the Accrediting Commission for Schools. Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC) this year!

Those schools are the Vallejo Adult School at Al Berenguer Educational Center, Jesse Bethel High School, and Vallejo High School.

To receive such an honor, the schools must go through a rigorous process including an in-depth self-study, hosting a visit by fellow educators, and engaging all stakeholders in a follow-up process of implementing, monitoring, and refining the resulting schoolwide action plan. WASC accreditation validates the integrity of a school's program and assures a community that the school's goals are appropriate and accomplished through a viable education program.

What an honor and distinction! Great job, VCUSD.

### 4th of July events

Celebrate the 4th of July holiday in style this year.

The annual **Torchlight Parade in Benicia** will take place on **Monday, July 3, starting at 6:30pm**, along First Street in downtown. The festive evening event will include floats, dancers, and live entertainment for the whole family.

**Vallejo's Annual 4th of July Parade returns for its 168th year from 10am to 12pm.** The Parade starts at Tennessee St. and Broadway and takes the traditional route west to Sonoma Blvd then south on Sonoma then west again on Georgina Street. The Grand Marshal: Faith Food Fridays with Carol Larson serving as the honorary grand marshal.

Following the Vallejo 4th of July Parade, the **Mad Hatter's July 4th Waterfront Celebration on Vallejo Waterfront will take place from 11am** till the skies light up for Independence Day over Mare Island Strait.

(707) 784-8960

#### U.S. Social Security

(800) 772-1213

#### SUICIDE PREVENTION

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE

800-273-8255

#### SPANISH LINE

888-628-9454

#### DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

800 799 4889

#### FRIENDSHIP LINE FOR SENIORS

800 971 0016

#### CRISIS TEX LINE

741741

#### THE TREVOR PROJECT FOR LGBTQ YOUTH

866-488-7386

#### TRANS LIFELINE PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

877-565-8860

Be part of the popular Maritime Dog Parade that starts around 1pm.

Register your furry friend with Mugsy's Pet Supply & Barkery at 507 Georgia Street in downtown Vallejo or email: [mugsyspetsupply@gmail.com](mailto:mugsyspetsupply@gmail.com) or call Lori (Owner) directly: (707) 641-3085

All entrees are at no cost, and every entrée will get a raffle ticket for a doggy prize, two raffle tickets if you register your dog at Mugsy's Pet Supply & Barkery

For more information contact Frank Malifrando, (415) 533-1522.

There will also be a **celebration of the Spirit Ship** in the Mare Island Preserve with a drone lightshow. The celebration will take place from **5:30 to 9:30pm** at the Mare Island Promenade 860 Nimitz Avenue on Mare Island.

This year there will be eating, drinking, and watching the light show, while also featuring The Project 4 Band, a local favorite with the sounds of funk, soul, and R&B!

There will also be Drone Soccer exhibits at 6pm, 7pm and 8pm with fun opportunities for the kiddos to learn how to use a drone.

Food, cold beverages, and sweet treats will be for sale. For more information, click [here](#). There will be a cost to attend with tickets being \$10 per adult, \$5 for children over 10 and any children under 10 gets in for free.

Over in the City of Benicia, there will be a **fireworks show at 9pm** along the First Street Green.

The **City of Fairfield will host its 2023 Independence Day Parade** in Downtown Fairfield on Tuesday, July 4, starting at **10am**. The parade will step-off from the corner of Webster and Kentucky Street and continue down Kentucky Street to Great Jones, then turn up Texas Street to Washington.

## Information this week

### **USPS is making changes to your mail, starting July 9**

Starting July 9, the price of a Forever Stamp will increase by 3 cents from 63 cents to 66 cents. The increase, according to USPS, is designed to "offset the rise in inflation." To read more about changes with the USPS, click [here](#).

## State to launch BenefitsCal.com self-service website in Solano County

The Solano County Department of Health and Social Services, Employment and Eligibility division, announced that on **Monday, July 3**, the State of California will launch the new BenefitsCal.com website in Solano County, giving customers who apply for and receive CalFresh, CalWORKs and Medi-Cal services, access to these benefits in a single online platform.



The state will begin migrating Solano County customers to the BenefitsCal.com platform starting on Thursday, June 29 at 2pm. During the transition, Solano County Employment and Eligibility (E&E) customers will not be able to access their accounts until the website launches on July 3 at 8am.

Solano County E&E offices will remain open during the transition to BenefitsCal.com, but services will be limited. Customers can visit and/or call a County E&E office with questions, including at 275 Beck Ave. in Fairfield, (707) 553-5000; 365 Tuolumne Street in Vallejo, (707) 784-8050; and 1119 E. Monte Vista Ave. in Vacaville, (707) 469-4500, all between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. More information can also be found on the County website at <https://www.SolanoCounty.com/Depts/HSS/ESS>.

## Program educators wanted

The Solano Resource Conservation District is hiring program educators for the 23-24 school year.

Solano Resource Conservation District is looking for program educators to join their award-winning education team for the 23-24 school year. Their programming connects over 8,000 students annually, offering a concrete, experiential introduction to their watershed and the life that depends on it. Solano RCD is looking for educators that represent the diverse communities of Solano County and are enthusiastic about teaching! Please see attached job description or email [education@solanorcd.org](mailto:education@solanorcd.org) for more information.

Submit a cover letter describing your interest in the position and a detailed resume with three professional work references to Caitlyn Morrissey at [caitlyn.morrissey@solanorcd.org](mailto:caitlyn.morrissey@solanorcd.org). Mailed application materials are also accepted. Applications are due on **July 15** and open until positions are filled.

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## Public notices

## Benicia Lyft rides



The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) will pay a portion of your Lyft rides throughout the City of Benicia, and to Springstown Center in Vallejo. These rides are valid only to specific destinations and between the hours of 6am-9pm for Benicia residents. To qualify you must be an older adult

(65+), a veteran, or ADA eligible. If your pickup or drop-off is outside the specified areas, the discount is not valid. More questions? Call the mobility call center: [1-800-535-6883](tel:1-800-535-6883)

## California's e-bike incentive project

The California State Legislature has allocated \$10 million for California Air Resource Board to create an Electric Bicycle Incentive Project. The goal is to encourage adoption of electric bicycles as a replacement for in-town motor vehicle trips by helping low-income Californians afford to purchase e-bikes. For more information, click [here](#).

## Pediatric vaccine resource for families

Solano County Public Health, First 5 Solano, Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC), Ole Health, La Clinica, Help Me Grow Solano and Child Start have developed and launched a new website for parents and families seeking information about childhood immunizations. The website, [www.SolanoVaxFacts.com](http://www.SolanoVaxFacts.com), serves as a public resource for information on early childhood immunizations, including facts about vaccines, where to get vaccinated, payment assistance, and more. Community members can also download a vaccine schedule that details the timeline for necessary immunizations for children aged two months through 16 years.

## NAMI Solano looking for bilingual volunteer



The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Solano is looking for a bilingual, Spanish speaking volunteer for its family programs, to assist with NAMI Family-to-Family facilitator and NAMI Family Support Group facilitator. Volunteer must have a family member with mental illness and is available to attend trainings.

NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental health conditions, including those living with a mental illness and their loved ones.

Contact Nicollete Morales at [nicollete@namisolano.org](mailto:nicollete@namisolano.org) or at (707) 439-5519.

## Storytime at Children's Wonderland

The Solano County Library will offer story time each **Thursday from 11 to 11:45 am** at Children's Wonderland, 360 Glenn Street in the city of Vallejo. This is a free program offered to the community. The program runs through October 26.

## Free HIV testing

The Solano Pride Center offers free HIV testing every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 4 to 7pm, at 1234 Empire Street, Suite 1560, in the City of Fairfield.



## National Night Out registrations open



National Night Out is an annual community-building event, promoting police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie in an effort to make neighborhoods safer, better places to live.

The city of Fairfield will host its 40th Annual National Night Out (NNO) on **Tuesday, August 1st, from 5 to 8 pm**. To register your neighborhood, click [here](#).

In Vallejo, registration is now open and available online by visiting [www.vpd.net](http://www.vpd.net). The Vallejo Police Department will close registration on Monday, July 17.

## **Fairfield releases water quality report**

The City of Fairfield has released its 2022 Consumer Confidence Report, detailing the quality of tap water as it compares to State Water Resources Control Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards. The report includes details about where Fairfield's water comes from and what it contains.

Fairfield's drinking water is sourced from Lake Berryessa and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and is treated at the City's two water treatment plants – Waterman and North Bay Regional. Based on a series of tests, the quality of Fairfield's drinking water exceeds almost all industry standards.

The public can view the 2022 Consumer Confidence Report on the website by visiting [www.fairfield.ca.gov/2022waterreport](http://www.fairfield.ca.gov/2022waterreport). To have a report mailed to your home, please call (707) 437-5387.

## **What are the Possibilities for Benicia's North Side?**



The North Study Area visioning process is a City-led effort resulting from an agreement with the property owner, including full cost recovery, to receive public comment and evaluate potential future use scenarios for the 527-acre parcel located near Lake Herman Road and East Second Street.

Informed by public comment, the City has evaluated key issues related to twelve topics in *The North Study Area Visioning Process Issues and Options* report, which is now available online at [www.ci.benicia.ca.us/northstudyarea](http://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/northstudyarea). Topics addressed in the report include land uses, fiscal sustainability, housing and traffic/circulation.

Moving forward, several alternative scenarios will be prepared for further analysis and public discussion. These scenarios will explore different ways to address many of the issues discussed in the report and identified in the questionnaire responses. The City's land economist, EPS (Economic and Planning Systems), will analyze the financial feasibility and fiscal impact of the scenarios. The scenarios and accompanying analysis will be available to the public for review in early Fall 2023.

Click [here](#) to view the report and [here](#) to view the compiled attachments.

For further information visit [www.ci.benicia.ca.us/northstudyarea](http://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/northstudyarea). You can also contact the City about this project at [northstudyarea@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:northstudyarea@ci.benicia.ca.us) or (707) 746-4324.

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## Updates from around Solano County

### Fairfield to submit request for public assistance from FEMA for Lopes Road

Earlier this month, Solano County was added to the list of counties eligible for disaster related assistance. The City of Fairfield will submit a request for public assistance to receive financial support from the state and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding repairing a water line along Lopes Road.

In mid-March, the hillside along Lopes Road failed, damaging a City of Benicia's water supply line and other underground utilities. Water has been restored through temporary water lines which must remain in place until permanent repairs can be made to the hillside, roadway, and underground utilities. All permanent repairs are dependent on existing soil conditions which are being assessed.

### Summer reading program

Starting Thursday, June 1, come to any Solano County library branch to sign up and get your summer reading challenge pamphlet. The pamphlet is full of reading challenges like "Read a book that teaches a skill" or "read a book that is recommended by a friend." There are 10 challenges in the pamphlet in total.



Decide how many of the challenges in the pamphlet you think you can complete by July 31<sup>st</sup>. You can do one challenge, 2 challenges or all 10! It is up to you! Once you complete your challenges, come back to the Solano County Library branch you originally signed up at by July 31<sup>st</sup> to get your prize.

The prize for kids (ages 0-12) is a brand new free book of their choice (off the book cart) at the library while the teens (ages 13-18) get to order any book they want from Amazon that does not exceed \$15. The library will order it for them!

Adults who complete the program will get a custom enamel pin. Not only that, but all who are signed up for the program will also be entered into weekly drawings for additional prizes! The weekly raffle drawings will be for Oakland A's and SF Giants tickets.

## "Stop & Shop" at the Fairfield PAL Student Food Pantry this summer

Local students may visit the food pantry every **Tuesday between 5 to 7pm** to pick up free pantry items to take home. A Fairfield PAL membership is not required to visit the pantry. Choose from fruits and veggies, pancakes, mac and cheese, cereals, soups, peanut butter and jelly and more. Fairfield, Suisun, and Travis teens ages 13 to 18 are able to participate. The food pantry is located at 2256 North Texas Street.

## Humane Society auction

The Humane Society of the North Bay is hosting an online auction until 11:30pm on Sunday, July 2 to benefit the shelter. Featured items include pet gear, Six Flags tickets, gift certificates to local restaurants, Folkmanis puppets, sports memorabilia, local activities, and craft kits. Check back frequently as items will be added throughout the week. Click [here](#) to view the auction.

## Summer Youth Employment Program

The Workforce Development Board of Solano County is offering a five-week paid work experience program **starting July 5th**. Work experience will be focused on Climate Transition projects in the Fairfield, Suisun and Vallejo region concentrating on water, land, restoration, sustainable agriculture, and climate education. For more information, contact Matt Moon-Bailey at [mmoonbailey@solanowdb.org](mailto:mmoonbailey@solanowdb.org).

## Did you know?

Did you know that Solano Community College is now postured itself as the key player in biotechnology and biomanufacturing across the United States through its exemplary total education pathway from exposure of junior high students to a doctorate granting institutions? First, middle school and high school faculty have adding biotechnology concepts to their science course curriculum at local junior high and high schools through a partnership with SCC faculty. Once in high school, articulated high school classes flow seamlessly into three certificates and Solano's associate's degree in biotechnology. Of course, the AS degree flows seamlessly into the BS in Biomanufacturing degree at Solano. However, the summer IBIS program extends the promise of a BS degree by training students in related science fields in nine weeks allowing them to enter the program each fall. Next comes guaranteed admission to currently six advanced degrees granting institutions across the USA.

The pathway has multiple entry and exit points to enter industry. Another exceptional strategy has been and will continue

to be supporting our part-time students as every segment from certificate to BS degree can be pursued while students are employed. Jim DeKloe has given a presentation on this pathway to multiple audiences including the Community College League of California, the Community College Baccalaureate Association, the National Council for Workforce Education, and local audiences. Solano Community College continues to form close relationships with multiple university graduate programs.

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

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## Upcoming events in Solano County

### Summer movies and food trucks



Food Trucks serving at 6:30pm  
Movie begins 15 minutes after sundown

<b>JUNE</b> <b>23</b>	<b>SPACE JAM 1996</b> <b>LAUREL CREEK PARK</b>
<b>JULY</b> <b>28</b>	<b>DC LEAGUE OF SUPER-PETS</b> <b>ROLLING HILLS PARK</b>
<b>AUG</b> <b>25</b>	<b>MINIONS: THE RISE OF GRU</b> <b>MANKAS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK</b>

PARKS & RECREATION  
fairfield  
CALIFORNIA

(707) 428-7652  
communityevents@fairfield.ca.gov  
www.fairfield.ca.gov/events  
#wednesdayawesome



Bring your family and friends to the movies this summer. The Summer Movies and Food Trucks event series has expanded: Rolling Hills Park on July 28 (DC League of Super-Pets); and Mankas Neighborhood Park on August 25, (Minions: Rise of Gru). Bring a blanket and chairs and enjoy a night out in the park! Food trucks begin serving at 6:30pm. For details visit [www.fairfield.ca.gov/events](http://www.fairfield.ca.gov/events).

### Summer craft events for teens

Calling all Vallejo teens. There will be several craft events over the summer including making kindness rocks at **3pm, Thursday, June 29** and popsicle keychains at 3pm, Thursday, July 13.

All events to take place at the John F. Kennedy library, 505 Santa Clara Street in the city of Vallejo. All supplies will be provided.

## **Buffalo Soldiers**

**On July 1**, the Buffalo Soldiers will be at Pena Adobe Park in Vacaville.

The mounted volunteers of Solano County Sheriff's Posse and their horses will join the Buffalo Soldiers. This event is free. The time is **11am to 2pm**. Come and speak with the Buffalo Soldiers who will be dressed in period uniforms. Pena Adobe Park is location at 4699 Pena Adobe Road.

## **Rib cook-off**

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION,  
SQUADRON 101

## 4TH ANNUAL RIB COOK-OFF

**Saturday, July 1, 2023**

**12:45 Tasting Begins!**

**\$30 gets you 6 ribs + side dishes**

**Tickets go on sale at 10:00**



**BENEFITING  
Veterans and  
Veteran Programs  
in Benicia and throughout Solano County**



### PLAN ON

- Trophies and CASH prizes
- Public Tasting with People's Choice Award
- Canteen with soft drinks and adult libations
- Prize Raffle
- Bake Sale
- Darts
- Music
- 50/50 Raffle
- Billiards
- Shuffleboard
- FUN!



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TO RECEIVE TEXTS  
AND OTHER FUN  
BENICIA VETERANS HALL FOOD EVENTS.

EM

Start your 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend by attending the Benicia Veteran's Cook-off. The Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 101, will host its 4th annual Rib Cook-off, starting at **12:45pm, Saturday, July 1**. For \$30, participants will get six ribs and side dishes. Proceeds benefit veterans and veteran programs in Benicia and Solano County. The event will be held at the Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall, 1150 1st St.

## Free community health worker training

Touro University California, Aliados Health and the Northern California Center for Well-Being are providing a free community health worker training program for Solano County that will take place from **July 10 through August 16**.

The training will be a total of 80 hours and participants who meet eligibility requirements will receive \$1750 for completing the core

training program. For more information, contact (707) 285-2964 or [evmartinez@aliadoshealth.org](mailto:evmartinez@aliadoshealth.org).

## Country Night at the Ranch



Come to Rush Ranch for our second annual Country Night at the Ranch from **4 to 7pm, Saturday July 29.**

Local country luminaries Locked-N-Loaded play all-time classics and contemporary favorites with slick musicianship and plenty of heart.

Tickets are on sale today, and 100% of raffle sale proceeds support Solano Land Trust. For more information or to buy tickets, click [here](#).

## NAMI Solano County Speaker Series

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization, continues to host a speaker series.

Christine Eichhorn, Chair-NAMI Service Members, Veterans, and Families Council; Homefront Coordinator – NAMI Santa Clara will speak on NAMI Homefront and Our Military Community to understand the needs of those in the military community.

The event will be on **Monday July 31 from 6:30 to 7:30pm** via [Zoom](#). Meeting ID: 814 0228 2987 Passcode: 498897

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## Events I attended this week

**Sunday, June 25,** I attended the Benicia Our Home - Poetry at the Clocktower. This was one of the best events I have attended in years. The poetry read by the students, the Benicia Poet Laureate, Mary Susan Gast and the California Poet Laureate Lee Herrick were heart touching.

With the approval of Constance Beutel, I invite you to watch the production by clicking [here](#). Alyssa Ilasco, a recent high school graduate, read her poem which brought me to tears. Our state's

Poet Laureate read several of his poems. My heart strings were tugged again.

The Benicia Literary Arts published the book Yearning to Breathe Free - A community Journal of 2020. Yes, I bought one. It helps to be reminded that the events of that year were shared by all.

**Wednesday, June 28**, I attended the farewell ceremony for Sarah Sweitzer, the Provost of Touro University. Sarah has been with the University for 5 and half years. She has made such an impact on the community. Under her leadership, partnerships were made, that are everlasting. The university with the students, doctors, and nurses were so helpful during the panic. A "Thank You" is just not enough of a response. Sarah: I wish you well in your next adventure. Your efforts will not be forgotten. GOOD LUCK

**Thursday, June 29**, Thursday night, I went to a Seaweed game at Wilson Park. This was my first game for the season. If you are looking for a place to be cool this weekend, come to a game. During the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, I had to put on a sweater and use a jacket as a blanket. Get some friends, bring your food and drinks, (there were two food trucks in the parking lot) and support the young men who want to play ball. Hope to see you there.

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## Looking for a job? Consider these links

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

[STATE OF CALIFORNIA](#)

[CITY OF BENICIA](#)

[CITY OF FAIRFIELD](#)

[CITY OF VALLEJO](#)

[SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE](#)

[BENICIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)

[FAIRFIELD-SUISUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)

[VALLEJO SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)

[POST OFFICE](#)

[GREATER VALLEJO RECREATION DISTRICT](#)

[YOUTH JOBS CORPS](#)

[CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS](#)

[SOLANO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT](#)

[FAIRFIELD-SUISUN SEWER DISTRICT](#)

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## Newsletter photo

District 2 celebrates the 4th of July, wishing everyone a safe and sane holiday. Photo by John Glidden.

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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.