



**SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER**

**November 17, 2023**



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**Happy Holidays**

Everyone: The county will be closed on Thanksgiving Nov. 23 and Friday the 24<sup>th</sup>. My office will be taking some time off and we will not be sending out a newsletter over the holiday.

I want to wish everyone, a nice holiday. Times are hard for many people. If you can help, money as well as canned goods can be donated to the FOOD BANK. Many of our non-profits get their food from the food bank and then distribute it.

It is also a time to do kind deeds. Does your neighbor need anything? Maybe just a visit and walk. I love this time of year when the leaves change. The colors bring a smile. My family is blessed to live in the United States. Take some time for yourself. It is ok to take a nap. It is ok to read a book. It is ok to not cook all the side dishes to go with that Turkey. Remember to BE KIND to yourself.

**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

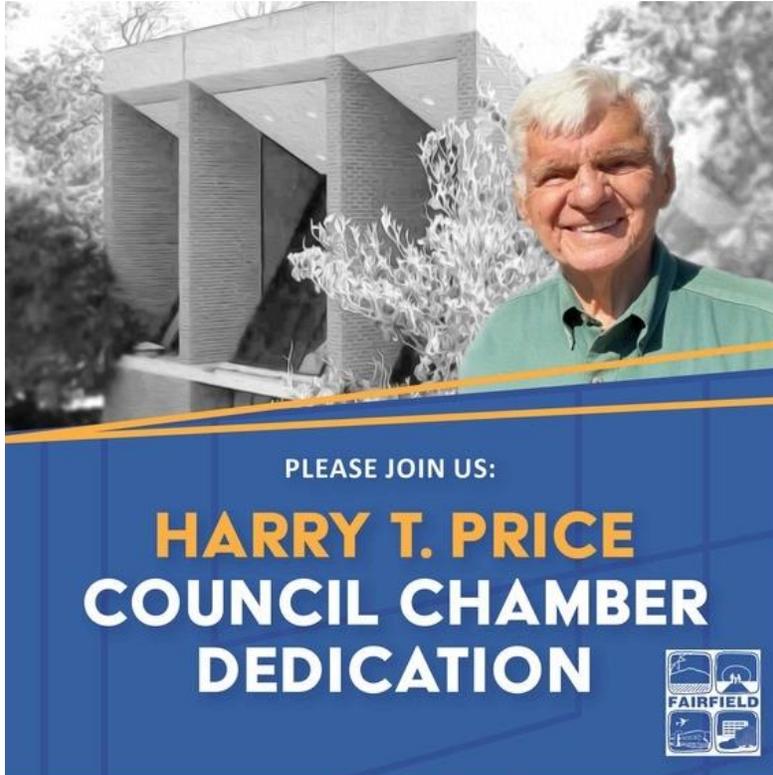
**Tax Collector/Treasurer/County Clerk**

(707) 784-7485

**Area Agency on Aging**

- Monica.

## Mayor Price to be honored



Join me in honoring longtime Fairfield Mayor Harry Price.

The public is invited to attend the Harry T. Price memorial Council Chamber dedication on **Tuesday, November 21 at 5:30pm**. The dedication will take place in the quad in front of the Council Chamber located at 1000 Webster Street in Fairfield.

Harry T. Price began his life of service in Fairfield in 1965 as a teacher at Vanden High School. In 1992, he was appointed to the Fairfield Planning Commission. Five years later, in 1997, he was elected to the Fairfield City Council. He became Mayor in 2005 and held that title until his passing in 2022.

He was a beloved family man and mentor and is a prominent figure in Fairfield's history.

## Reimaging Benicia Road

(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

**WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!**  
 The County of Solano invites you to help plan the potential future of Benicia Road by participating in a three-day design workshop to help provide a clear, community-supported vision for the area.



**BENICIA ROAD DESIGN WORKSHOP**  
 SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH · 1170 BENICIA ROAD · VALLEJO  
 Refreshments will be served!

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>THURSDAY<br/>DEC. 7th</b> | <b>OPEN HOUSE DROP-IN: 6:00 PM</b><br>Share your ideas for a safer and more walkable neighborhood along Benicia Road. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What types and scale of housing would support residents of all ages and incomes?</li> <li>• What improvements are needed to attract neighborhood supporting businesses?</li> <li>• How do we make Benicia Road greener and more sustainable?</li> </ul> |
|                              | <b>INITIAL PRESENTATION: 7:00 PM</b><br>Hear an overview from Solano County Planning about this three-day workshop intended to bring you together with designers, builders, and architects to design-test creative and practical ideas to shape the potential future of Benicia Road.  |
| <b>FRIDAY<br/>DEC. 8th</b>   | <b>OPEN HOUSE DROP-IN: 6:00–7:30 PM</b><br>View initial sketches drawn from the ideas shared at Thursday's open house and provide your feedback.   |
| <b>SATURDAY<br/>DEC. 9th</b> | <b>SUMMARY PRESENTATION: 6:00–7:30 PM</b><br>Come see how two days of community input guided the final design proposal. Potential outcomes could include changes to building design elements, street improvements, or alternative zoning for land uses to support future housing and retail shops.   |

**SOLANO COUNTY**  
 Dept. of Resource Management  
 Division of Planning Services  
 (707) 784-6388  
[www.solanocounty.gov/planning](http://www.solanocounty.gov/planning)  
 415 Texas Street, Suite 1000  
 Fairfield, CA 94533

Workshop Location: Second Baptist Church,  
 1170 Benicia Road, Vallejo, CA 94591

Solano County officials invite residents to help plan the potential future of Benicia Road in the city of Vallejo by participating in a three-day design workshop to help provide a clear, community-supported vision for the area.

**The three-day Benicia Road Design Workshop from Thursday, December 7 to Saturday, December 9 will be held at Second Baptist Church, 1170 Benicia Road.**

There will be an open house and initial presentation on **Thursday, December 7.**

The open house drop-in will begin at 6pm and will allow residents to share ideas for a safer and more walkable neighborhood along Benicia Road. Questions include: What types and scale of housing would support residents of all ages and incomes? What improvements are needed to attract neighborhood supporting businesses? How do we make Benicia Road greener and more sustainable?

The initial presentation will start at 7pm, allowing residents to hear an overview from Solano County Planning about this three-day workshop intended to bring you together with designers, builders, and architects to design-test creative and practical ideas to shape the potential future of Benicia Road.

**On Friday, December 8,** there will be an open house drop-in from 6 to 7:30pm. View initial sketches drawn from the ideas shared at Thursday's open house and provide feedback.

**Finally, on Saturday, December 9,** there will be a summary presentation from 6 to 7:30pm. Come see how two days of

community input guided the final design proposal. Potential outcomes could include changes in building design standards, street improvements, or alternative zoning for land uses to support future housing and retail shops.

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



## Information this week

### MTC/ABAG-Backed ACA 1 goes before the voters in 2024



MTC/ABAG-backed [Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1](#) which would lower the vote threshold for local special taxes and bonds to fund affordable housing, transportation, resilience

and other public infrastructure projects from two-thirds to 55%, will go to voters in November 2024.

The state Legislature last month approved sending the amendment, authored by Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, to voters with the backing of the entire Bay Area legislative delegation.

Similar bills have been proposed over the past two decades but until now none were approved by the house of origin, a hurdle that itself requires a two-thirds vote. Other supporters included Nonprofit Housing Association of Northern California, Enterprise Community

Partners, the California Professional Firefighters, and individual cities and counties.

The Bay Area [is preparing to place a regional housing bond on the November 2024 ballot](#), with 80% of funds flowing to counties and several large cities and 20% designated for regionwide programs administered by the [Bay Area Housing Finance Authority](#) (BAHFA).

To leave a comment, click [here](#).

## Ag Department progressing toward invasive pest eradication in Vacaville neighborhood



The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is renewing an emergency proclamation for eradication of the glassy-winged sharpshooter in Vacaville, Solano County officials announced this week.

Solano County Agricultural Biologists identified the glassy-winged sharpshooter infestation in the Browns Valley neighborhood during a routine invasive pest survey in October 2021. Since then, the Solano County Agriculture Department has made progress toward eliminating the pest but requires more time to achieve complete eradication.

Agricultural Biologists have found 138 adult sharpshooters and over 500 egg masses in Browns Valley. The infestation remains confined to the originally defined quarantine boundary which encompasses 3,500 acres around Browns Valley. CDFA and the County Agriculture Department will be hosting a public meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> to provide an update on the eradication project. To register for the meeting please visit <https://www.SolanoCounty.com/Ag>.

Glassy-winged sharpshooters are invasive pests of special concern because they vector the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*, which causes the deadly Pierce's disease in grapevines. Because there is no known cure for Pierce's disease, glassy-winged sharpshooters present an imminent danger to Solano vineyards and California's grape growing regions. A previous Vacaville glassy-winged sharpshooter infestation was successfully eradicated in 2007.

For more information on the Solano County Ag Department, visit <https://www.SolanoCounty.com/Ag> or call (707) 784-1310.

## Solano Public Health receives grant for car seat safety education program

– The Solano County Health & Social Services Department, Public Health Division has received a \$118,614 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to continue its child passenger safety efforts in Solano County, officials announced this week. The increased funding from the OTS will continue to support the various program services offered by the Solano Car Seat Connection Program, which works closely with parents and caregivers on teaching proper car seat use and safe installation. Grant funds will support car seat safety classes, individual car seat inspection appointments, and community-wide car seat checkup events.

The Solano Car Seat Connection Program currently offers virtual car seat safety classes in both live and self-guided formats. The classes assist parents in getting a firm understanding of best practices for car seat safety. The classes also educate parents and caregivers on current car seat safety laws in California, such as keeping children under the age of 2 in a rear-facing car seat unless they weigh 40 pounds or more or are 40 inches or taller in height.

The Solano Car Seat Connection Program also supports the community of Solano with individualized car seat inspection appointments conducted by Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. All the program's services are provided in both English and Spanish.

For information on the Solano Car Seat Connection, please visit [www.vibesolano.com](http://www.vibesolano.com) and [www.vibesolano.com/classes](http://www.vibesolano.com/classes).

## Solano County Fair Association seeks CEO



The Solano County Fair Association Board of Directors announced it is looking for a new chief executive officer.

The Board sees this as an opportunity to recruit a visionary and experienced CEO who is passionate about fostering community engagement, making a positive impact on the health and

well-being of the Solano County communities, serving as a refuge in times of emergency, and creating unforgettable memories and experiences for the people of Solano County, the association announced in a press release.

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

The closing date for receiving applications is **Wednesday, November 22**.

## Express toll lanes planned for I-80, Hwy 50 near Sacramento

The Sacramento region is getting closer to its first major freeway toll lane. Caltrans, the state of California's highway authority, is seeking public input on a proposed \$465 million express toll lane project for stretches of Interstate 80 and the Highway 50 portion of the Capital City Freeway. To read more, click [here](#).

## Service Academy nominations



Congressman John Garamendi is accepting service academy nominations **through to December 1**.

Every year, Congressman Garamendi is able to nominate candidates for appointment to four of the five U.S. service academies:

- U.S. Military Academy (USMA), West Point, NY;
- U.S. Naval Academy (USNA), Annapolis, MD;
- U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA), Colorado Springs, CO;
- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA), Kings Point, NY.

If you are interested in joining the brave men and women who selflessly serve our country, Congressman Garamendi's Office is encouraging you to learn more about the nomination process by clicking [here](#).

## Medicare Open Enrollment

**From now until December 7**, those already enrolled in Medicare can make changes to their current health plan and those who now qualify can enroll. Existing health and drug plans can make changes to their cost, coverage, and provider/pharmacy network each year, so it's important to review which plans best fit your needs.

If you make less than \$22,000 per year (\$30,000 for married couples), you may qualify for "Medicare Part D Extra Help." This program could cut your Medicare Part D drug costs to no more than \$4.15 for generic prescriptions and \$10.35 for brand-name drug prescriptions.

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

## Need a ride to the doctor?

You can now get a ride to and from your doctor visits at no charge. As a Kaiser Permanente Medicare health plan member, you can get a ride to and from your appointments at no cost. Your plan covers up to 24 one-way trips (50 miles per trip) per calendar year.

To schedule a ride for rideshare, taxi, or private transportation service, call 1-877-930-1477 (TTY 711). You can also schedule online at [medicaltrip.net](http://medicaltrip.net) or download the MTM Link Member app. To download the app on your device, visit the App Store (Apple) or Google Play (Android) and search for MTM Link Member App.

For wheelchair van or gurney van transportation service, call 1-833-226-6760.

Request your ride at least 3 business days (Monday through Friday) before your appointment. If you have an urgent last-minute appointment, call as soon as you can.

You can get rides for doctor appointments, medical services such as lab or X-ray, and picking up medications or medical equipment. This benefit is limited to Kaiser Medicare members who had coverage through an employer or who were also on Medi-Cal.

## SF Bay Ferry



As the holiday season arrives, the San Francisco Bay Ferry will have special hours.

- **Thanksgiving (Thursday, November 23):** No service
- **Day after Thanksgiving (Friday, November 24):** Weekend service
- **Christmas Day (Monday, December 25):** No service
- **New Year's Day (Monday, January 1):** No service

[Normal schedules](#) will be in effect for all other days in November and December.

## New Comment Opportunity: Support Policy to Stop Cuts in SSI Benefits

The Social Security Administration (SSA) published a proposed regulation in September that would allow more disabled people and older adults to get full Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments each month.

SSI provides lifesaving income supports, but people can see their benefits cut by a third if they get help paying for housing and other necessities. SSA's proposed regulation would stop cuts to people's SSI checks if their household receives SNAP benefits (food stamps).

This is important for recipients because, with a maximum SSI benefit of just \$914 per month, with benefits often reduced because of other income, virtually all SSI recipients are struggling financially.

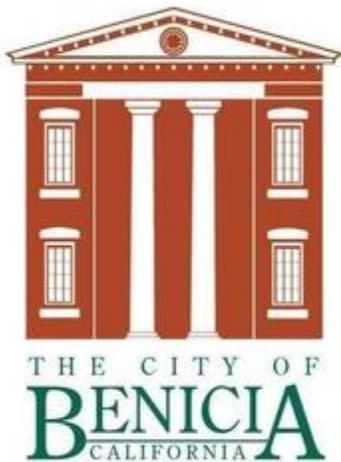
The proposed regulation would also make the SSI program work better for everyone. There would be less onerous reporting requirements for SSI applicants and recipients and thousands of hours of less work for the already overstretched SSA staff.

**Click [here](#) to leave a comment for the agency in support of this new policy before the deadline of November 28.**

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## Public hearings

### Benicia Parks, Trails, Open Space Master Plan



The city of Benicia began the process of updating the 1997 Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan in 2021. After extensive community input, the Parks and Community Services Department has completed a draft of the Master Plan for public review.

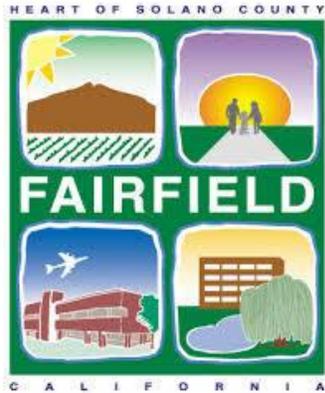
The document is in its final form regarding recommendations provided by the community for improvements to the parks, trails and open space system. The draft was presented to the Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Commission on Oct. 18, 2023, at which time public input on the draft was welcomed.

The document will go back to the Commission in January 2024. In the interim, the community is welcome to review the draft and

provide comment for consideration by the Commission. [Submit comments here](#).

**The deadline to submit a comment is December 10.**

## **Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan workshops in December**



The city of Fairfield Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROSMP) is a comprehensive guide for city parks, recreational programming, and development that will inform improvements and funding for years to come.

More specifically, the PROSMP will determine how we improve, expand, repurpose, prioritize, maintain, staff, and fund our community's park assets and recreational opportunities.

**The public is invited to attend two upcoming workshops, on December 6 and 7 from 6 to 8pm**, to share ideas and opinions about the future of Fairfield's parks and recreational programming. The December 6 workshop will be held in English at Willow Hall in the Community Center on 1000 Kentucky Street. The December 7 workshop will be held in Spanish at the Library in Grange Middle School on 1975 Blossom Avenue.

To register, click [here](#).

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## **Updates from around Solano County**

### **MyFairfieldCA app**



Broken streetlight? Abandoned vehicle? Report it by using the MyFairfieldCA app.

Download the app to submit cases anonymously or assign public or private. With GIS capabilities, the app finds your location instantly

to pinpoint the issue for city staff. Once you've submitted a request, the app automatically sends updates on the progress of your case.

Don't want to download an app? Simply [here](#) to submit an issue online. Other topics include garbage & recycling, graffiti removal, illegal parking, nuisances and more.

## Arts Benicia



This month, Arts Benicia will open two new and important exhibitions, **Properties of Water**, juried by **Katrina Bello**, and **Solano Water Stories**, curated by **Mary Shaw**.

Water is our most essential natural resource, and for this exhibition, it has provided inspiration to our approximately 90 participating artists. Arts Benicia members and exhibition artists are invited to a preview of the **Properties of Water** exhibition on **Thursday November 16, from 6 to 7pm**.

The second exhibition, **Solano Water Stories**, runs concurrently with **Properties of Water**.

It is part of a larger Arts Benicia grant project called **Stewarding our Water Resources: Solano Artists Create, Collaborate, and Educate, funded by the California Creative Corps, a program of the California Arts Council**. Solano Water Stories provides information about Solano County water issues and conservation practices in the face of climate change, utilizing video stations, an "idea library", an interactive haiku station, maps, and original art. Both shows open to the public on **Saturday, November 18, with a reception from 4 to 6pm**.

Please mark your calendars for other upcoming events.

On **Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 to 8pm** Arts Benicia will present the next **Art Talks ... and Timely Conversations event** with artist **Lordy Rodriguez** interviewing visual artists **Jennifer Starkweather and Amanda Hughen**. These artists collaborate to create artwork that references water/land intersections and the connection of man-made infrastructure with natural ecosystems.

There will be a **Holiday Spirits event** on **Friday, December 15, 5:30 to 7:30pm** at the Arts Benicia Gallery. Enjoy a Bourbon, Brandy, and Cognac tasting, served with light hors d'oeuvres. More information on these events is found below.

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 5pm. Visitors are invited to walk throughout the historic mansion built in 1860, an important and interesting part of Benicia'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. For full listings, 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 the programs. To find out more about sponsoring an Arts Benicia exhibition or program, please email [info@artsbenicia.org](mailto:info@artsbenicia.org)

## **Fairfield Adult School classes starting soon**

The Fairfield Adult School is offering several classes beginning in November and December. Classes offered include Office Assistant to introduce students to basic computer skills for success in a modern environment, Custodial Training to learn basics in custodial operations, and CPR which covers First Aid and CPR essentials for adults. To view what programs are available, click [here](#).

## **Point-In-Time Count 2024 Volunteer recruitment**

**Register to Volunteer Today!**

Solano  
**POINT  
IN TIME  
COUNT**

JPA  
CAP Solano



**What is a Point-in-Time Count?**

The Point In Time (PIT) Count is a count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. This is a requirement by HUD to be conducted every other year.

The PIT Count provides data that is used to determine funding from the State and Federal Government to help provide better programs and services to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

When: January 31, 2024  
Time: 5:30AM – 10:00AM

For more information or to sign up to volunteer:  
Visit <https://solano24.pointintime.info/>  
or scan the QR Code from your mobile device



**For any additional questions, please reach out to:**

Becky Farris  
PIT Coordinator  
[rlfarris@solanocounty.com](mailto:rlfarris@solanocounty.com)

The Community Action Partnership Solano Joint Powers Authority is looking for volunteers to help with the Point-In-Time (PIT) count next January. The PIT count is a count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January.

This is a requirement by **United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** to be conducted every other year. The PIT Count provides data that is used to determine funding from the State and Federal Government to help provide better programs and services to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. How can you participate:

1. Register to volunteer on the [Volunteer Registration Portal](#)
2. Reach out to family, friends, and co-workers to volunteer for the count

Take part in the [PIT Count 2024 Community Information and Planning Session](#) on November 29.

## Benicia Lyft rides



The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) will pay a portion of your Lyft rides throughout the City of Benicia, and to Springstowne Center in Vallejo. These rides are valid only to specific destinations and between the hours of 6am to 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)

## Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging Request for Proposals

The Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging is excited to announce a Request for Proposals (RFP) to support services to seniors and disabled adults. Services include senior nutrition, case management, transportation, visiting, ombudsman, legal assistance, home care assistance, emergency aid and assistance.

**The deadline for proposal submission is January 17, 2024 at 5pm.**

For more details or to apply to the RFP, click [here](#). Contact Nesmith Despabiladeras at [nadespadilaeras@solanocounty.com](mailto:nadespadilaeras@solanocounty.com) or at (707) 784-6322 for any questions.

## 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.

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## Upcoming events in Solano County

## International Games Day at the Solano Library



**Solano County**  
**LIBRARY**

Web: [solanolibrary.com](http://solanolibrary.com)  
Phone: 1-866-572-7587  
f @ v t: [solanolibrary](#)



**INTERNATIONAL  
GAMES MONTH**

**Fairfield Civic Center Library**  
**Saturday, November 18th**

Dungeons & Dragons  
Character Creation and Combat Sessions  
10 AM and 2 PM  
**Registration Required**  
10 AM - 4 PM  
Board Games, Puzzles, and More!

Create a Dungeons & Dragons character, then use them in a combat session with other players! Dungeons and Dragons Character Creation and Combat Session will be held at the Fairfield Civic Center Library, from **10am to 2pm, Saturday, November 18**. The library is located at 1150 Kentucky Street.

## Nor-Cal Regional Juried Art Show

**SUZANNE BRUCE, FAIRFIELD POET LAUREATE  
& FAIRFIELD-SUISUN CITY VISUAL ARTS ASSOCIATION**

invite poets to write to art pieces selected for the 60th Annual  
Nor-Cal Regional Juried Art Show.  
Poets may go to the gallery or visit the website: [fvaa-arts.org](http://fvaa-arts.org)

**FSVAA Solano Town Center Gallery**  
(Inside the Solano Town Center Mall)  
1350 Travis Blvd. #D-8, Fairfield, CA.

Poems need to be 42 lines or less. Please attach a picture of the art to  
put with your poem. All poems will be printed out and placed in a  
binder for the Gallery to be available during the duration of the exhibit.

Contact Suzanne if you have any questions.

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>THE EXHIBIT DATE:</b><br>November 17, 2023 - January 7, 2024<br><b>AWARDS NIGHT:</b><br>Saturday, November 18, 2023 - 4-6 pm | <b>POEM SUBMISSION DEADLINE:</b><br>Thursday, November 30, 2023 - 5 pm<br>Email word doc or pdf format to:<br><a href="mailto:fairfieldpoetlaureate@gmail.com">fairfieldpoetlaureate@gmail.com</a> | <b>POETRY READING:</b><br>Saturday, December 2, 2023<br>4 - 6 pm |
|---|--|--|

The Fairfield-Suisun City Visual Arts Association and Fairfield Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce invites poets to write to art pieces selected for the 60th Annual Nor-Cal Regional Juried Art Show.

The juried art show will take place from November 17, 2023 to January 7, 2024. The art awards night is **November 18**.

That is a fun night to meet the artists and see the multitude and variety of art! Poems must submitted by Thursday, November 30.

There will a separate poetry reading from **4 to 6pm, Saturday, December 2**.

## Transgender Day of Remembrance

A Transgender Day of Remembrance celebration of life ceremony will be held from **4:30 to 9pm, Saturday, November 18** at the Vallejo Naval Historical Museum, 734 Main Street in downtown Vallejo.

Gwendolyn Ann Smith, who started the day of remembrance two decades ago will be joined by speakers Jennie L. Thomas, Mario Saucedo, president of the Solano AIDS Coalition, and Ms. Bob Davis, the founder and curator of the Louise Lawrence Transgender Archive, located in Vallejo.

## Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon



*Thanks Giving*  
*Dinner* 

**Thursday,**  
**November 23, 2023**

Celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends.  
Turkey Dinner and all the trimmings will be prepared and served by our staff and volunteers.

**FREE!!! Reservations required.**

91 Town Square Pl, Vacaville, CA 95688

(707) 469-6660



The city of Vacaville McBride Senior Center invites all seniors in Vacaville and the surrounding area for its Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon on **Thursday, November 23 from 12 pm to 1:30pm**. The McBride Senior Center is located at 91 Town Square Place, Vacaville.

Registration is required. To register, call (707) 469-6660.

## **Shop Small Business Saturday**

The city of Fairfield is partnering with Boss Con to celebrate Small Business Saturday with a vendor market pop-up downtown on **November 25 from 12 to 5pm**. The downtown offers a variety of unique shops, food, and activities to enjoy and the pop-up will add even more to the fun, festive atmosphere.

Plan on checking off all of the items on your holiday list while supporting small businesses on Shop Small Saturday!

For more information, contact Keisha Mamaril at kmamaril@fairfield.ca.gov.

## HIV/AIDS Walk Vallejo 2023

The Solano AIDS Coalition will be hosting their very first AIDS Walk in Vallejo on **December 1 at 12pm**. Join as they celebrate the lives lost due to this disease and show your support to those affected. This annual observance is aimed at raising awareness of the global epidemic of AIDS and the spread of HIV. The AIDS Walk will start at 355 Tuolumne Street and end at 555 Santa Clara Street in downtown Vallejo.



For more information, call (707) 450-5861.

## Women and Money Conference



### WORKSHOPS:

- The Basics of Personal Finance
- Women Empowering Women: Breaking the Barrier on the ABCs of Women and Money
- Empowered Through Home Ownership: Expert Insights, From Credit to Closing
- We Spend More Time Preparing for a One Week Vacation than for 30 Years of Retirement: Let's Start Planning
- An Educational Workshop For Women; Planning for the Future



**Keynote Speaker: Courtney Bolger**  
Realtor | DRE 02048878  
EXP Realty of California, Inc.  
*Building Dreams, Bridging Gaps:  
Unlocking the Path to Homeownership*



**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Free event! Scan the code (left) or at the link below before Nov 28th:  
[tinyurl.com/wmconference2023](https://tinyurl.com/wmconference2023)

### Event Partners:



Supported by Solano County Board of Supervisors



For more info: [FriendsofSCWG@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofSCWG@gmail.com) [solanocommissionwomensgirls.com](http://solanocommissionwomensgirls.com)

The first county-wide Women and Money Conference will be from **9am to 1pm on Saturday, December 2** at the Solano County Events Center, 601 Texas Street in the city of Fairfield.

The workshop will include the basics of personal finance, women empowering women, among others.

The conference is made possible by your support and from a grant the Friends of the Solano Commission for Women and Girls received from the California Commission on the Status of Women.

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

## Ornament making for teens

# HOLIDAY ORNAMENT MAKING FOR TEENS

Learn how to create  
a beautiful holiday  
ornament with  
washi tape!

Make one for yourself  
or a friend or loved one!



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5  
4PM

FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

For more information,  
visit [solanolibrary.com/events](http://solanolibrary.com/events)

On **Tuesday, December 5 at 4pm**, the Fairfield Civic Center Library will be having a holiday ornament making program for teens.

Teens who attend will get the chance to create a beautiful holiday ornament using washi tape and ribbons. This is a free program.

The Fairfield Civic Center Library is located at 1150 Kentucky Street in the city of Fairfield.

## December Cultural Celebrations: Poetry Open Mic



FAIRFIELD POET LAUREATE SUZANNE BRUCE IS HOSTING:

# DECEMBER CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

POETRY OPEN MIC

LET'S CELEBRATE THE MANY DECEMBER HOLIDAYS THROUGH FESTIVE VERSE. DAVID BELT, ARMIJO HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH TEACHER, WILL BE PLAYING THE VIOLIN FOR US!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023  
**1:00PM - 3:00PM**  
FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY  
1150 KENTUCKY STREET, FAIRFIELD

\*POETS MAY BRING THEIR BOOKS TO SELL  
\*10% OF SALES DONATED TO THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Fairfield Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce is hosting a December Cultural Celebrations Poetry Open Mic from **1 to 3pm, Saturday, December 9**, at the Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky Street in the city of Fairfield.

Violinist David Belt will also be performing. Poets may sell their books (10% of sales to be donated to Friends of the Library).

## Benicia Fire Toy Drive



The Benicia Fire Department is now accepting toys for donation to local kids in need. Please bring new, unwrapped toys to any of the fire department's collection bins by **December 10**. New stuffed animals are also accepted.

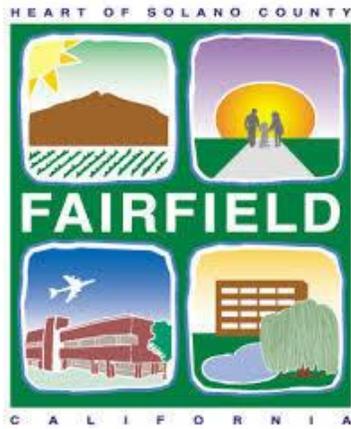
Santa Claus is also visiting the Benicia Fire Department at Fire Station 11, 150 Military West, on **Saturday, December 9 from 3 to 6pm**. When you come to get your picture taken, you can also bring your toy for donation.

Collection bin locations:

- Fire Station 11 (150 Military West)
- Fire Station 12 (601 Hastings)
- City Hall (250 East L)
- Benicia Public Library (150 East L)
- Senior Center (187 East L)
- Community Center (370 East L)
- All Benicia Starbucks locations

Call (707) 746-4275 for more information.

**Annual Menorah Lighting on December 11 in Downtown Fairfield**



The city of Fairfield, in partnership with the Chabad of Solano County, announced the third annual Fairfield Menorah Lighting Ceremony, located in Downtown Fairfield. The event will take place on **Monday, December 11, and begin at 5:30 pm**. It will be held on the County Greens at the corner of Texas and Jefferson Streets. Rabbi Zaklos and Fairfield Mayor Moy will light the Menorah during the evening ceremony.

Festivities following the lighting ceremony include family entertainment, hot latkes, donuts, and Chanukah cookies.

Contact Special Events Coordinator, Andrea Azurdia at [aazurdia@fairfield.ca.gov](mailto:aazurdia@fairfield.ca.gov) or (707) 399-4101 with any questions or for more information.

## Back to Basics Class available

The Benicia Adult Education is offering a Back to Basics Class: A Sampler on Self-Sufficiency Living. It is a 16-week course that will cover topics such as growing food and herbs at home, beekeeping, keeping chickens, various methods of gardening, composting and making kombucha.

Tuition is \$250 and students will earn a certificate. **The class begins on January 20, 2024 and runs through May 4, 2024.** Classes are on Saturdays from 10 to 11am and will be held at the Benicia Adult School at 350 East K St., Room 7. To register, click [here](#).

## Solano Community College crab and shrimp feed



**SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**



**SOLANO  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

# Crab & Shrimp Feed

**Saturday, March 2, 2024**



Fresh Dungeness crab and extra jumbo sized shrimp, pasta, salad and garlic bread. Rotisserie chicken option with special order. Delightful ice cream desserts available from IT'S-IT.

**Captain Bob's Dive Bar**



Enjoy Captain Bob's Dive Bar with a live band & dancing, plus frozen margaritas, pina colodas, micro brews on tap from Heretic and fine wine from Suisun Valley.

## \$75

Early Bird price \$70 during November. Large parties of 20-38 may sit at one table at the \$70 price (no additional discount). Sponsorships start at \$500. Call Curt or Eileen at 707-864-7199.

**Welcome to the islands!  
Wear your island or nautical garb and have more fun!**

**Event Location & Time**  
Solano Community College  
Student Center/Bookstore (1400 Bldg.)  
4000 Suisun Valley Road  
Fairfield, CA 94534

**Saturday, March 2nd**  
5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Dive Bar till about 10:00 p.m.



All proceeds benefit the SCC Educational Foundation. To purchase tickets call Eileen Amick at 707-864-7199 or go to our event webpage below:

<https://foundation.solano.edu/event/2024-crab-shrimp-feed/>

THANKS TO OUR PAST MAJOR SPONSORS:



The Solano Community College Educational Foundation will hold a crab and shrimp feed on **Saturday, March 2, 2024** inside the 1400 building at 4000 Suisun Valley Road, in the city of Fairfield. The early bird price is \$70 through the month of November.

For more information, and/or to buy tickets, click [here](#).

## Events I attended this week

**Saturday, November 11, Veteran's Day**, I attended the activities in Benicia. The flag was raised at 8am, flying over the Solano County Veteran's Center located in Benicia. It brings a smile to my face to see the young boy scouts learn the proper way to raise a flag. The next ceremony was raising the flag at the Benicia arsenal cemetery. Shawn read part of the county's resolution honoring the Veteran's. Kudos to Benicia's public works. The grounds were immaculate.

The next part of the program began at 11am with the Presentation of the Colors by VFW Post 3928 and American Legion Post 101 Color Guard. Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance. The Diablo Regional Concert Band played the Star-Spangled Banner. The ceremony continued for an hour.

Then the Bar-a-Que. (There was breakfast, I just did not partake. Heard the pancakes were excellent) Choices of hamburgers/ hotdogs, salads, beans, and cookies. I delighted in talking with friends. The mood was festive, and the weather was a perfect November Day.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the day an enjoyable affair.

**Sunday, November 12**, I attended the Veteran's Day activities on Mare Island in the city of Vallejo. There were many, many people in attendance. It has taken many years, with many, many people working on getting the Mare Island Naval Cemetery ownership transfer to the care of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It was nice to hear California Maritime Academy Cadet Francheska Tagle sing the National Anthem. The BAGPIPES were a very nice touch. Hearing Amazing Grace played at the end of a ceremony held in unspoiled weather honoring our men and women who protect us, and our freedom was perfect.

**Wednesday, November 15**, I attended the city of Vallejo Police Department IHEART (Integrated Health and Resource Team) Town Hall meeting. The police department would like feedback as to which nonprofit that made it through the process should be given the contract.

The project proposals are:

- a) TabiMOMS. 3069 Alamo Drive # 1026 Vacaville, Ca 95687
- b) Felton Institute-San Francisco and East Bay Areas
- c) TrueCare24, Inc- Healthcare Provider HQ in Tampa, FL National company.

The police need your feedback no later than Sunday November 19, as they want to award the contract on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

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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

The Mare Island Naval Cemetery. Photo: Monica Brown.

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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.