



# Solano County *California*

## SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER

March 22, 2024



[Follow on Twitter](#)



- [Information this week](#)
- [Public hearings](#)
- [Updates from around Solano County](#)
- [Upcoming events in Solano County](#)
- [Events I attended this week](#)
- [Looking for a job? Consider these links](#)
- [Newsletter photo](#)

## Women's History Month moment

### **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



**Selina Solomons and Hannah Marks Solomons**

A member of the first graduating class of the San José Normal School was Hannah Marks Solomons. Solomons served as the representative for San Francisco's Jewish women at an 1888 meeting to decide if women should be allowed on the Board of Education. Solomons' daughter Selina became active in the California suffrage movement and worked specifically to attract more working-class women to the cause, along with publishing an account of the 1911 victory entitled "How We Won the Vote in California".

Selina Solomons devoted her life to women's suffrage and was a key player with California passing its eighth amendment that

**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

granted women the right to vote in 1911. She was a Sephardic Jew, who traced her ancestry to Spain and England, and was from a middle-class family.

## Information this week

### **Solano Transportation Authority Board authorizes proceeding with SR 37/Fairgrounds Interchange Project Construction**



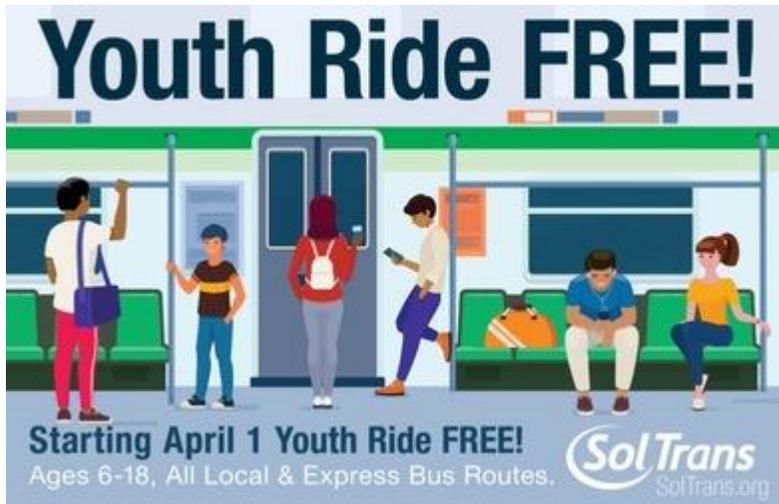
Earlier this month, the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) Board authorized STA (partnered with the City of Vallejo, County of Solano, and Caltrans) to proceed with construction on the State Route 37/Fairgrounds Interchange Project, an independent component project to improve the I-80/I-680/I-780 transportation corridor.

This project will provide improved and safer access for autos, express buses, bikes, and pedestrians accessing Six Flags, the Solano 360 Development, and the adjacent neighborhoods. The interchange improvements include a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) strategy. Some advantages of a DDI include:

- Free vehicles left turns onto SR 37
- Ramp termini intersections can operate with two signal phases instead of three
- Reduce intersection delay particularly for the movement to the WB SR 37 on-ramp
- Better accommodates future traffic demand
- Smaller construction footprint
- Lower cost due to the elimination of all proposed retaining walls
- Increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Separated pedestrian path

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

## **Youth Ride Free**



Beginning, Monday, April 1, 2024, all youth ages 6-18 will have free fares on all Solano County Transit (SolTrans) Local Routes and SolanoExpress Lines.

This is a pilot program that will run from April 2024 through June 2025. In the Spring of 2025, staff will return to the SolTrans Board with directions on whether to fully adopt the Youth Free Fare or not. The pilot's goals are to promote access to public transit to a new generation, increase attendance at the local school districts, and grow ridership.

For routes, click [here](#).

## Community Meeting

Mare  
Island  
Co.

# Community Meeting



## You are invited!

Thursday, March 28th, 2024

Please join us for a presentation of the DRAFT Land Use Plan for Mare Island.

Mare Island Co., with the City of Vallejo and HOK Architects will be sharing the plan to create a complete community. The draft plan has been developed with community input, expert consultant studies, and reflects the economic development goals of the City of Vallejo. We will share the vision, program, phasing, and the next steps for the drafting of the Specific Plan.

The format of this meeting will be a presentation with opportunity for questions at the end, held in-person at the Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum. A recording of the presentation will be available on the Mare Island Co. website, posted with the presentations from all past community meetings.

VALLEJO NAVAL & HISTORICAL MUSEUM

734 Marin Street, Vallejo, CA 94590

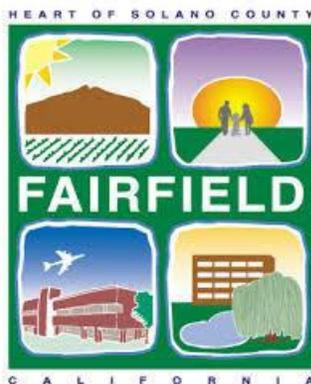
Doors open: 5:30 pm

Presentation: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Mare Island Co., with the city of Vallejo, and others will present the draft Land Use Plan for Mare Island at a community meeting from 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, March 28 inside the Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum, 734 Marin Street in downtown Vallejo.

To register, click [here](#).

## City of Fairfield to no longer pay credit convenience fees on behalf of customers



Beginning May 1, the city of Fairfield will no longer pay credit card convenience fees on behalf of customers. In the past, the city absorbed these fees as a courtesy to residents and businesses making payments. Instead, the fee charge will be passed on to customers who choose to pay with a credit card.

To avoid these fees, customers are encouraged to make payments using check, cash, or Automated Clearing

House (ACH) transfers. These payment methods do not incur convenience fees.

For more detailed information, visit [www.fairfield.ca.gov/credit](http://www.fairfield.ca.gov/credit).

## Internship for high school students

Bay Area high school students are invited to apply to the [Norman Mineta Bay Area Summer Academy](#), a five-week paid



internship with MTC, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District).

The program kicks off at the Bay Area Metro Center on July 8, 2024, and over the course of the subsequent five weeks, students will learn how regional agencies deal with issues like environmental justice, housing and transportation equity, community health, and social justice. [High school students are encouraged to apply before the application deadline on April 28, 2024.\(link is external\)](#)

To apply for the Bay Area Summer Academy, students must:

- Live and attend high school in the Bay Area.
- Be at least 16 years old.
- Have completed the ninth grade by July 2024.
- Be able to attend online and in-person seminars and present on a topic related to the seminars.
- Have the permission of a parent or guardian to participate if the student is under 18.

Enrollment is limited, and selections will emphasize a diversity of perspectives from students across the Bay Area. Grade point averages are not considered.

## Notice of Public Availability of 2023 Refinery Flare Minimization Plan Annual Updates

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is releasing the 2023 Flare Minimization Plan (FMP) Annual Updates for public review and comment. The five Bay Area refineries prepared these plans subject to [Regulation 12, Rule 12: Flares at Refineries](#).

Under Regulation 12-12, each FMP Annual Update must include:

- New prevention measures identified during investigations of flaring events that occurred during the period July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023;

- A description of the prevention measures previously taken or currently planned to reduce flare emissions at the refinery;
- Commitment to implement all new feasible prevention measures expeditiously; and
- A 30-day public comment review period

The plan updates are now available for review on the Air District's [Flare Minimization Plans](#) web page.

The deadline to submit public comments regarding the 2023 FMP Annual Updates is **April 8, 2024**.

Comments can be submitted the following ways:

- Mail to BAAQMD–FMP Update Public Comment, 375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105
- Email to [compliance@baaqmd.gov](mailto:compliance@baaqmd.gov)

**Be sure to identify which refinery, or refineries, your comment is applicable to.**

After consideration of public comments received, the Air District will evaluate each refinery's Flare Minimization Plan Annual Update to determine whether it meets the requirements of Regulation 12-12 and will take final action in accordance with the regulation.

For any additional information, please visit the [Air District website](#) or email [compliance@baaqmd.gov](mailto:compliance@baaqmd.gov)

## 2024-25 College Journalism Network Fellowship



Are you an undergraduate student journalist at a California college or university? Do you want to gain valuable experience covering higher education, work with other student journalists from around the state and see your stories published by CalMatters?

The [CalMatters College Journalism Network](#) is hiring fellows for its 2024-2025 cohort, which begins mid-August and runs through May.

You will take part in ambitious joint reporting projects with other fellows, as well as covering stories on your own. And you'll receive

training in reporting, higher education policy and navigating the journalism industry.

Fellows devote an average of 10-15 hours per week to the remote fellowship, with a flexible schedule and a stipend of \$1200 per month. Expect to attend weekly, virtual newsroom meetings with the rest of the CJN team, and at least one in-depth, expenses-paid training in Sacramento at the beginning of the program.

**Applications are due by midnight PST on Friday, April 12.**

In lieu of a formal cover letter, please answer the following questions and attach your responses as part of your application. If you have any questions or concerns please contact [cjn@calmatters.org](mailto:cjn@calmatters.org).

- Why do you want to be part of the CalMatters College Journalism Network?
- What is one issue affecting students that you think hasn't been reported enough? Why do you think it's important? Pitch us a higher education story with a brief plan of how you'd cover it.
- The College Journalism Network seeks to recruit a team of student journalists that reflects the diversity of California. What we mean by diversity includes, but is not limited to: race and ethnicity, geography, gender, sexual orientation, life experience, ability, skill set and type of college. How would you contribute to that diversity?
- Is there anything else you would like us to know?

To apply, click [here](#).

---

## Public hearings

### City of Benicia to host community meetings on Industrial Safety Ordinance



<b>VIRTUAL</b>	<b>IN PERSON</b>
 <b>WEDNESDAY</b> APRIL 3	Benicia Public library <b>TUESDAY</b>  MARCH 26
 6 PM - 7 PM	<b>TWO SESSIONS</b> PLEASE ATTEND ONE
<b>JOIN MEETING:</b> <b>TINYURL.COM/YXB39XV6</b> Passcode: 162947	5 PM - 6 PM  <b>OR</b> 6 PM - 7 PM 
<b>LEARN MORE: <a href="http://www.EngageBenicia.com">www.EngageBenicia.com</a></b>	

The Benicia City Council has appointed a Council Subcommittee consisting of Vice Mayor Terry Scott and Councilmember Kari Birdseye, with Fire Chief Josh Chadwick to create an Industrial Safety and Health Ordinance (ISO) for the city of Benicia.

As part of the ISO development process, the subcommittee is conducting public outreach, gathering input from key stakeholders, and consulting with subject matter experts in the field of industrial safety.

In-person meetings at the Benicia Public Library will take place on **Tuesday, March 26**. Due to the size of the Dona Benicia room, there will be two sessions of the same content: one at **5 p.m. and one at 6 p.m.** Please attend only one session to allow for more participation. **The library is located at 150 E L Street.**

There will also be a virtual community outreach meeting with the same content on **Wednesday, April 3 from 6 to 7 p.m.** To join the meeting, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yxb39xv6> and use passcode 162947.

To learn more about the project and the public engagement process, please visit the City's public engagement website, [www.EngageBenicia.com](http://www.EngageBenicia.com).

## Reuse, Recycle, Organics talk



Hear the current status of recycling and SB 1383 food waste laws and learn, “What goes where now?”

This is a hands-on presentation, by Marie Knutson, Republic Services Sustainability Advisor.

Plus, Carla Murphy, a Vacaville Food Forest Keeper, will share how she creatively repurposed “trash” items. Discover practical tips, and DIY projects that will inspire you to live greener. Bring your reuse ideas to share. From composting to upcycling, we have it covered!

The talk will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Monday, March 25, **Benicia Community Center, 370 East L Street, Benicia, Room 2.**

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

---

## Updates from around Solano County

### Senior Rally Day

You are invited to participate in Senior Rally Day 2024 on Wednesday, May 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Virtual Rally will feature presentations from Legislators, State Leaders and Aging and Disability Leaders. This year’s focus will be on legislation and budget requests that impact older and disabled adults.

This event is open to all. To register, click [here](#).

### School Water Education Program (SWEP)



The Solano Resource Conservation District is offering the School Water Education Program (SWEP), which provides education to K-12 students about drinking

water, stormwater, and water conservation. The program also provides free resources to teachers, including two annual award-winning Project WET curriculum trainings.

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

### Watershed Explorers Program



Benicia students journey into the hills and open spaces to learn about watersheds and how to protect them.

The Watershed Explorers Program runs annually from December

through March and includes a pre-trip presentation through our School Water Education Program and a field trip to a local park or outdoor space. This program is available to 3rd grade classes in Solano County.

Watershed Explorers uses science and place-based learning to build awareness and understanding of local creeks and watersheds and their unique ecosystems, as well as good stewardship practices to help care for these special places. Using a curriculum based on concepts directly linked to California's state education standards, the program offers local children - many of whom have little or no experience being in open space settings - a concrete, experiential introduction to their watershed and the life that depends on it.

To register, please contact Program Manager Lee Ascencio at [Lee.Ascencio@solanorcd.org](mailto:Lee.Ascencio@solanorcd.org).

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

Photo by: Stephanie Rice, teachers in the Benicia Unified School District.

**"A Mystery"**



FAIRFIELD POET LAUREATE SUZANNE BRUCE  
& THE FAIRFIELD-SUISUN CITY VISUAL ARTS ASSOCIATION  
INVITES YOU TO WRITE A POEM TO AN ART PIECE FROM THE EXHIBIT

# A MYSTERY

Exhibition dates:  
April 10 - May 18, 2024

---

Art can be seen at the Gallery  
Wednesday - Sunday 11:00 am - 6:00 pm  
or online at [fvaa-arts.org](http://fvaa-arts.org)

---

Art Reception and Poetry Reading:  
Saturday, April 20  
4:00-6:00pm

---

Send Suzanne your poem in a word doc or pdf with  
picture of art on the poem by 12:00 noon April 19  
[fairfieldpoetlaureate@gmail.com](mailto:fairfieldpoetlaureate@gmail.com)  
Please keep your poem to 42 lines or less.



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



Fairfield Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce in collaboration with the Fairfield-Suisun City Visual Arts Association invites you to write a poem to an art piece from the exhibit:

## ***A Mystery***

Exhibition dates: April 10 – May 18. Art Reception and Poetry Reading will take place on Saturday, April 20, from 4 to 6pm. Solano Town Center Gallery, 1350 Travis Blvd., #D-8, Fairfield, CA (inside the Solano Town Center Mall).

Art will not be up for this exhibit until April 9th. Art can then be seen at the Gallery : Gallery opened Wednesday- Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. or by clicking [here](#).

## Solano County Kindness Campaign video contest



The Solano County District Attorney's Office is hosting a kindness campaign, which is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Solano County.

Submit a video between 30 seconds to two minutes in length that expresses what the power of kindness can accomplish in your community. Hatred and bullying can pop up anywhere. How can the power of kindness be used in our schools, homes and communities to make a positive difference? If you had the power of kindness, what would you do with it?

Video must focus on how kindness can make a positive difference against bullying and negative behavior and videos must include creator's names, school affiliation, and name of teacher or staff advisor with entry.

Also include a short explanation of your video, either in the body of your email submission or attached as a word document. For example, tell us about the inspiration for your project and provide the backstory if you feel it will aid the judging panel.

The submission deadline is **April 24**. Finalist will be invited to attend the ceremony on: May 6.

Please submit your video by a shared link (Google drive, Dropbox, etc.) to [SCDAKindness@solanocounty.com](mailto:SCDAKindness@solanocounty.com) and the signed Media Photo Release Form.

Please click [here](#) to download and print the "Media Photo Release Form."

Also, if you are having trouble submitting the video through a shared link and/or have questions, email [SCDAKindness@solanocounty.com](mailto:SCDAKindness@solanocounty.com).

## Free compost giveaway



A free compost giveaway will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, March 23 at First Baptist Church, 1055 Southampton Rd. (enter from Turner Dr.) Bring your own containers. No bags

please. For Benicia residents only and by appointment to reduce waiting time.

To sign-up, click [here](#).

Have questions? Contact [MKnutson@RepublicServices.com](mailto:MKnutson@RepublicServices.com)

## Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity hiring chief operating officer

The Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity is currently hiring for several positions, including a chief operating officer (COO). The COO will report directly to the Executive Director and will provide key leadership in all program areas. This is a full-time, salaried position with benefits.

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

## Arts Benicia



Arts Benicia is expected to open two new exhibitions, including **Explorations in Monochromatic Art**, a juried exhibition with artwork built mainly of a single-color hue, and selected by Leah Rosenberg, opens on

Saturday, March 16 in the downstairs galleries.

Paintings, textiles, metal, concrete and ceramic sculptures, prints, and photography are represented among the 70 works in the show.

In the upstairs galleries, Arts Benicia will present **Randall Sexton with The Outsiders**, featuring work by the late Sexton and by members of The Outsiders, a plein air group with whom he painted. The Outsiders included Sexton, Nikki Basch Davis, Jerrold Turner, Warren Dreher, Raymond Jackson, William Rushton, and Judy Molyneux.

The Arts Benicia Gallery is located at 1 Commandant's Lane, Benicia, in the Commanding Officer's Quarters, in the historic Benicia Arsenal. Gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday, 1 to 5 pm. Visitors are invited to walk throughout the historic mansion

built in 1860, an important and interesting part of our town's history. For more information visit <https://artsbenicia.org>

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

Interested in sponsoring a program with Arts Benicia? The support of local businesses and donors is essential to the quality and reach of our programs. To find out more about sponsoring an Arts Benicia exhibition or program, please get in touch by emailing [info@artsbenicia.org](mailto:info@artsbenicia.org)

## **STA's 2023 annual report**

The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) has released its 2023 annual report.



According to the STA, "2023 was a year of continuing progress on priority projects, programs, and new opportunities for funding heading into 2024. Thanks to the leadership, support, and teamwork of the STA Board, STA staff, and our local, regional, state, and federal partner agencies, STA effectively continued to plan for, fund, and deliver priority projects, and provide a range of mobility programs to support all of Solano County's residents and employees."

To read the report, click [here](#).

## **Solano County In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) survey**

# SOLANO'S IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Solano County In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program invites our clients and providers to take a customer service survey. This survey will allow you to share your feedback in order to help us improve our services.



## CLIENTS



Scan or visit  
<https://bit.ly/IHSSClientSurvey>

## PROVIDERS



Scan or visit  
<https://bit.ly/IHSSProviderSurvey>

**TAKE OUR SURVEY  
FOR YOUR  
CHANCE TO WIN A  
GIFT CARD!**

SURVEY ENDS APRIL 5TH  
2024

**If you'd prefer a paper version, please ask our staff for a copy and turn it into our drop box once completed.**



**CONTACT US**  
IHSSSurvey@solanocounty.com



SOLANO  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH



The Solano County In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program invites the community to take part in a customer service survey. This survey is being conducted to collect feedback in order to understand how IHSS can improve its services, while also being able to support and provide the community with a better experience as a client or provider.

**All responses will be kept anonymous and confidential.** This survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. Participants who complete this survey will have the option to participate in a raffle drawing for a gift card.

Participants may also complete this survey in-person at 275 Beck Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533. **Please complete this survey by Friday April 5.**

For clients, click [here](#).

For providers, click [here](#).

## **Solano Behavioral Health seeking qualified vendors for specialty mental health services**

As a result of several initiatives requiring the need to expand capacity for mental health and co-occurring substance use services within Solano County, Behavioral Health will release a new Request for Proposals (RFP) this month.

The County will be seeking qualified behavioral health provider agencies (Proposers) for Specialty BH Services Programs to provide services and support for clients across the lifespan, delivered in a recovery-oriented, culturally-responsive, and trauma informed manner. These SMHS programs will provide:

- Full Service Partnership/FSP: highest level of outpatient service intensity for children and adults, and/or
- Outpatient (OP)/Case Management: moderate level intensity services for children and adults.

The goal is that services are comprehensive, coordinated, evidence-based, peer and family informed, engaging and do whatever it takes to ensure positive outcomes for those Behavioral Health serves.

To apply, click [here](#).

## **March calendar for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall**

The March calendar of events for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall:

March 22 hamburgers with American Legion Auxiliary

29 hamburgers with VFW, National Vietnam War Veterans Day is observed every year on March 29 and is a way to thank and honor our nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. There are 5 objectives with Vietnam Commemoration and the other four are:

- Highlight the service of our Armed Forces and support organizations during the war
- Pay tribute to wartime contributions at home by American citizens
- Highlight technology, science and medical advances made during the war
- Recognize contributions by our Allies

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

## Solano County receives reports about misleading signature gatherers



The Solano County Registrar of Voters (ROV) is issuing this alert to inform voters of their rights, officials announced this week. The County has received multiple reports of voters being misinformed by circulators collecting signatures either with incorrect information or for a petition to **stop** the East Solano Homes, Jobs and Clean Energy Initiative (also known as “California Forever”). No such initiative has been cleared for circulation.

“Only one local initiative has been approved for circulation - and that petition is to authorize rezoning of 17,500 acres of Solano County agricultural land for a new community,” said Tim Flanagan, Chief Information Officer and Registrar of Voters. “Anyone who signed a petition and wishes to withdraw their signature may do so by contacting our office. The freedom to petition your government through the initiative process is central to our democracy. We strongly encourage voters to carefully read petitions before signing them to ensure they are acting on their convictions instead of misinformation.”

If voters feel they signed a petition in error, they may withdraw their signatures from a petition with a written request to the ROV. Access the withdrawal of signature from petition form by clicking [HERE](#). Voters who wish to file a complaint regarding signature gathering tactics may do so with the [Secretary of State](#) or [Solano County](#).

For more information about the Solano County Registrar of Voters office, visit their website at <https://www.SolanoCounty.com/Elections>. You can also contact the ROV by email at [Elections@SolanoCounty.com](mailto:Elections@SolanoCounty.com) and / or by calling (888) 993-VOTE (8683) between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

---

## Upcoming events in Solano County

### Refuel Your Fun - 1 lb. Propane Cylinder giveaway

**SOLANO COUNTY:**  
**GET A FREE REUSABLE**  
**1 LB. PROPANE CYLINDER!**




**ACE**  
Hardware

**Pedrotti Ace Hardware**  
**830 Southampton Road**  
**Benicia, CA 94510**

**Saturday, March 23, 2024**  
**10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Funded By  
**CalRecycle**



**\*ONE PER HOUSEHOLD, WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.\***  
**MUST BE A SOLANO COUNTY RESIDENT TO QUALIFY.**

Californians use over four million 1 lb. propane cylinders each year. Due to limited and expensive recycling options, the empty cylinders are often disposed of improperly in landfills, dumpsters, household trash, campsites, on the roadside or in recycling containers.

Disposables are dangerous even when empty. Cylinders often still contain a small amount of gas, posing a danger to sanitation workers due to the risk of explosions and resulting fires.

The state of California offers a propane cylinder recycling program called Refuel Your Fun & Save/Choose Reusables! This program promotes the safety of propane cylinders by choosing refillables instead of disposables. Refillables reduce the impact on landfills and the environment.

Pedrotti's Ace Hardware is a retailer that carries 1 lb. refillable propane cylinders. Make the switch now! Stop by and pick up your free 1 lb. propane cylinder. Must be a Benicia or Solano County resident.

**The giveaway will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 23, Pedrotti's Ace Hardware, 830 Southampton Road in the city of Benicia.**

## **Solano AIDS Coalition's Fiestas Primavera**



The Solano AIDS Coalition is hosting their Fiestas Primavera Spring Fest event in Benicia on **Saturday, March 23 from 10:30am to 5pm.**

The festival is a Mexican/Latino Indigenous tradition to celebrate and honor the coming of spring and is an opportunity for all communities to unite in an energetic celebration of change and renewal, to learn about our history and the history of human migration, and to honor a culture which has contributed significantly to making Benicia what it is today.

For more information, click [here](#) or contact [solanoaidscoalition@yahoo.com](mailto:solanoaidscoalition@yahoo.com) or by calling (707) 450-5861.

## **Tolkien Reading Day**



## TOLKIEN READING DAY

Celebrate the life and works of J.R.R. Tolkien  
with crafts, a Zoom reading from selections of his works  
hosted by the Tolkien Society,  
and a viewing of the theatrical version of  
*The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*.

And of course, part of the fun will be dressing up  
in your finest attire.  
So whether you're Hobbit, Elf, Dwarf, or person of Gondor,  
join us for a celebration of all things Tolkien!

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23**  
**12 - 4 PM**

**FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY**



**Solano County**  
**LIBRARY**

Web: [solanolibrary.com](http://solanolibrary.com)  
Phone: 1-866-572-7587  
f @ o s solanolibrary

**On Saturday, March 23**, the Solano County Library will host a Tolkien Reading Day program from **12 to 4pm** at the Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky Street.

This program will celebrate the works of *Lord of the Rings* author, J.R.R. Tolkien.

There will be crafts, snacks, a zoom reading from selections of his works hosted by the Tolkien Society and a showing of the theatrical film, *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*.

This program is for all ages and cosplaying is encouraged.

**Women Making History program**



In honor of Women's History Month, Cal Maritime's Community Engaged Learning office is sponsoring an afternoon tea and artistic expression from **2 to 4pm, Sunday March 24**.

Embark on a unique journey of self-expression and watch your creativity come to life on canvas. All supplies will be included.

Cal Maritime is located at 200 Maritime Academy Drive in the city of Vallejo.

To register, click [here](#).

## Speaker Series



NAMI Solano County's speaker series continues on Monday, March 25, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. with Dana Vaughn, Deputy County Counsel Attorney with Solano County.

Dana will provide an overview of LPS/Mental Health Conservatorships. Distinction between probate & mental health conservatorships Purpose/goals of mental health conservatorships Requirements & processes General advice & tips.

She has been Deputy County Counsel for Solano County since August 2015. Prior to her current role, she served as Deputy District Attorney for Solano County and for Stanislaus County. She specializes in Probate and LPS conservatorships, decedent estates, guardianships, writ hearings, diversion, AOT, and Mental Health Court, including Care Court. In addition, she represents Public Guardian, Public Administrator, ODAS (APS, Public Authority and IHSS), District Attorney and Behavioral Health. She is also a Hearing Officer for General Assistance and Subpoena Review for miscellaneous County departments.

## Holi festival - Benicia



The Holi festival of colors will take place from **2 to 5pm, Sunday April 7** at city park along First Street in Benicia. The event will be hosted by the non-profit Helping Hand Indo-American.

## Annual H.O.P.E. Resource Fair

HOMELESS. OUTREACH. PARTNERSHIP. ENGAGEMENT

# H.O.P.E.

RESOURCE FAIR



APRIL 3, 2024 | 10 AM - 2 PM

BAY NORTH CHURCH OF CHRIST  
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. FAIRFIELD



The city of Fairfield's Homeless Services Division is partnering with the Police HIT, Kaiser Permanente, and Bay North Church of Christ, for the annual Homeless Outreach Partnership Event (H.O.P.E.). **The event will be on April 3 from 10am to 2pm at the Bay North Church of Christ on 2100 Pennsylvania Ave. in Fairfield.**

There will be several resources available including Medi-Cal, Cal-Fresh services, Veteran Homeless Services, vaccines and microchips for animals, mobile showers, and more.

FAST will be providing free rides for individuals or families interested in attending. To use this service, board Route 3 at the Fairfield Transportation Center from 10 am to 2 pm and let the driver know you are going to the HOPE event.

If you are interested in volunteering at the event, contact Arianne Irucuta, at [airucuta@fairfield.ca.gov](mailto:airucuta@fairfield.ca.gov) or (707) 428-77679.

## Benicia Parkinson's Expo

In recognition of April being Parkinson's Awareness Month, the Benicia Parkinson's Expo will be held on **Saturday, April 13 in City Park at First and K Streets. The Expo is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

The expo will bring together different companies and service organizations who provide our local communities with solutions and resources to help with their journey.

The annual fundraiser, the Bill Cawley Memorial Walk, held in conjunction with the expo, is in honor of one of the founders of the Benicia Parkinson's Support group. Check-in starts at 8:30 a.m. The walk will be around the perimeter of City Park. Prizes will be awarded for those completing the most laps.

The \$30 participation fee for the walk will include a t-shirt. This donation will be used to increase awareness of Parkinson's Disease, support local and Northern California programs, and provide educational materials, seminars, and events.

To register, click [here](#). The expo is free to the public.

---

## Events I attended this week

**Friday, March 15**, I went to the Benicia Road Design Workshop at the John F. Kennedy Public Library in downtown Vallejo. This was my third day to meet and talk with the members of the community. What ideas did they have? Then I went to the Empress Theater to watch a movie "The 50." It is a program looking inward for the answer and a chance on 50 men Serving Life inside. To watch the film: google the50film.com The event was sponsored by the probation department.

**Saturday, March 16**, I attended the last day of the Benicia Road Workshop. I look forward to reading the summary of the vision for this area. At 2pm, I was at the Benicia library as the author event continued with Rafael Lopez. He is an illustrator. He explained his art. He uses curves, lines, squares, rectangles, and my favorite, the trapezoid. He showed pictures of the murals he makes with members of the community and how this activity brings everyone together. I bought the book **Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood**. Just another fabulous afternoon. The evening ended with dinner at the Filipino Community Center. The event was the 79<sup>th</sup> annual Installation of Officers. Congratulations to new President Annie Frias-Ramos.

**Monday, March 18**, I went out with a driver from Meals on Wheels to deliver meals. Afterward, I had lunch at the Benicia Senior Center. I did this activity before the pandemic. What was new, was the driver was one of my former students. Yes, it is a small world.

**Tuesday, March 19**, several friends and I attended the 2024 Women Making a Difference Awards Luncheon sponsored by the Soroptimist International of Central Solano County. Several of the women honored were student nurses at Solano Community College. Some of you might know, I was a trustee on the college

board and I am always promoting higher education by starting your education by attending a community college. Nursing is a wonderful career as the country needs 400,000 RN's by 2030.

---

## 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

Red Men's Hall in downtown Vallejo. Photo: John Glidden.

---



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