



**Supervisor Monica Brown Newsletter**



MONICA SPEAKING AT THE PORT CHICAGO 50 MEMORIAL DEDICATION IN VALLEJO

## **SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER**

Hello Benicia, Fairfield and Vallejo,

Welcome to my November 2019 Newsletter. I want to update you on what has happened since our last newsletter. If I can ever be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office. I can be reached at [mebrown@solanocounty.com](mailto:mebrown@solanocounty.com) or at 707-784-3031.

### **HOME KITCHEN ENTERPRISE PROGRAM**

On Tuesday December 10, the Board will be considering the Home Kitchen Enterprise program. I requested this item be brought to the Board and the Board voted 4-1 to move forward. Essentially, this program will allow persons to sell meals prepared in their homes if they only sell 30 meals a day with a cap of 60 meals a week and \$50,000 in gross sales. To be eligible, interested persons would need to register with the county and obtain a food safety certification.

I consider this program to be an important economic tool for our residents and our military spouses. Those unable to start a full restaurant can use this program to get their feet in the door and work their way toward opening a full restaurant. Military spouses have a difficult time finding employment because of having to move frequently as the military reassigns the family. This is an excellent way to provide income to military spouses.

***I would encourage everyone to be at the Board meeting at 675 Texas St in Fairfield on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM to support this program.***

### **HELP WITH PURCHASING HEALTH INSURANCE**

Starting in 2020, California law will require individuals to have health insurance. If you do not have health insurance, you may face a fine. In the most recent state budget, more money was allocated to help CA residents purchase health insurance than in years in past. If you need help paying for health insurance, you may be eligible for help. Please visit <https://www.coveredca.com/> for more information.

### **GREATER VALLEJO RECREATION DISTRICT 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

The GVRD Gala Dinner was a great event at the Dan Foley Center. It was so nice to see community members celebrating all that GVRD has done for Vallejo over the last 75 years.

## **BENICIA CAMEL BARN EVENT**

I had the best time at the Benicia Camel Barn's book signing event on Thursday Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>. There is never a shortage of events celebrating Benicia's history.

## **PORT CHICAGO MEMORIAL**

On Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup>, a plaque was unveiled in Vallejo on Ryder street at the site of the Port Chicago Mutiny. At Port Chicago in Concord, an explosion killed over 300 sailors, over 200 of whom were African-American. The explosion took place on July 17, 1944.

African-American sailors stationed at the barracks in Vallejo were asked to load munitions in dangerous conditions like the conditions that caused the explosion at Port Chicago. What became known as the Port Chicago Mutiny took place on Ryder St in Vallejo when African-American sailors refused to load munitions in unsafe conditions. Fifty of the sailors were ultimately convicted. Legislation is pending in Congress to exonerate the sailors convicted.

I presented a resolution from the county recognizing the event. It was such a heart breaking and yet inspiring event. The bravery of the sailors, the injustices they faced and the need to learn from our history were all on my mind at this event.

I am so thankful to Vallejo residents Sharon McGriff-Payne, Brien Farrell, Jim Kern, Liat Meitzenheimer, and Brendan Riley for their work on the memorial.

## **VETERAN'S DAY**

On Monday Nov 11<sup>th</sup>, I participated in Veteran's day events in Benicia and Vallejo in the morning. I was in Benicia for the raising of the flags and I was at the Mare Island Cemetery for the Veteran's day remembrances.

In the afternoon, I participated in the Fairfield Veteran's Day Parade. I was able to ride in a WWII jeep in the parade.

Thank you to all those who served our nation in uniform.

### **NAMING THE WATERFRONT PARK AFTER BARBARA KONDYLIS**

I was so happy to see the Vallejo City Council vote to name the waterfront park after former Supervisor Barbara Kondylis. The Council did this at the Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Barbara is the reason we have the waterfront park and her actions in securing the park for future generations were the beginning of her political career. Barbara was one of my mentors and I am happy to see that her decades of work have been recognized and her legacy lives on.

### **IN-HOME SUPPORT SERVICES CAREGIVER APPRECIATION**

I was so happy to sponsor the caregiver dinner for our IHSS caregivers on Monday Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. Our IHSS caregivers provide an invaluable service to the community. They care for those who need help the most. They deserve our gratitude.

### **DEPLOYMENT PAY AT SOLANO COUNTY**

On Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, the Board approved a salary policy for our employees deployed with the military. Those who are deployed will receive the difference between their deployment pay and their county salary. I was so happy to see this policy approved. We must support our brave military personnel who are sacrificing so much for us.

### **VETERAN'S HALLS IN SOLANO COUNTY**

During the Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, I requested an update on what the county will be doing to support our veteran's centers in Solano County. County staff indicated that there will be a report sent out soon to the Supervisors.

### **REGIONAL PARK**

At the Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, the Board directed staff to come back with more information about placing the issue of a Regional Park on the ballot.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF MONEY**

Solano County is receiving over \$400,000 from Cal Office of Emergency Services to cope with the PG&E power shutoffs. At the Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, I asked the county staff to bring back options for how we will spend that money.

### **BENICIA COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL COMMUNITY DINNER**

On Thursday Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, I helped serve at the CAC community dinner at the clocktower in Benicia. Viola Robertson, the executive director of the CAC, does a great job helping the community and I am very thankful for her work.

### **VETERAN'S AND JAPANESE-AMERICAN DIPLOMA PROGRAM**

The Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) is offering high school diplomas to U.S. Veterans and Japanese-Americans who were unable to complete their high school education due to wartime circumstances. For more information, please contact SCOE at 707-399-4429.

### **JOBS AT SOLANO COUNTY**

Here is a link to the job openings at Solano County: <https://jobapscloud.com/solano/>

### **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS MICROGRANT**

Solano Transportation Authority is offering microgrants for smaller infrastructure and/or pedestrian improvements that will increase safety and encourage more students to walk to school. Interested parties can apply for funding.

<https://solanosr2s.ca.gov/programs/microgrant-program/>

### **FREE THANKSGIVING MEAL AND TRANSPORTATION FOR VALLEJO RESIDENTS**

Vallejo Together, Vallejo Moose Lodge No. 468 and SolTrans are partnering to provide a meal on Thanksgiving. The goal is to ensure seniors are not alone on the holidays. SolTrans will provide transportation to and from various senior living facilities. Please call Francie McInerney MacMillan with Vallejo together (707)-205-7476 for the list of pick-up locations and to reserve your spot. The drop off times are also available from Soltrans by visiting soltrans.org or by calling customer service at (707) 648-4666.

### **CENSUS JOBS**

The U.S. Census is hiring thousands of people across the country to assist with the 2020 census count. If you are interested in finding a job with the census, here the link: <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html>

## **HOLIDAY EVENTS IN BENICIA**

The Benicia Main Street Association has a schedule of wonderful holiday events in Benicia. Please be sure to see what's happening in downtown Benicia this holiday season and join the festivities!

<http://beniciamainstreet.org/downtown-in-december/>

<http://beniciamainstreet.org/holiday-shopping-spree-2019/>

## **HOLIDAY EVENTS IN FAIRFIELD**

On Saturday Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 PM, the Jelly Belly Factory will their tree lighting and photos with Santa. For more information, click here: <https://www.visitfairfieldca.com/events/jelly-belly-tree-lighting-celebration/>

On Friday December 6, the Fairfield Main Street Association will have their tree lighting from 6-8:30 in Downtown Fairfield. More information can be found here: <https://www.visitfairfieldca.com/events/christmas-tree-lighting-in-downtown-fairfield/>

## **HOLIDAY EVENTS IN VALLEJO**

The Greater Vallejo Recreation District will be having their 5 days of Christmas event. There will be a tree lighting, photos with Santa, caroling and more! Here is the information: <https://www.gvrd.org/upcoming-events/>

On Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup>, Vallejo will have the Mad Hatter Parade. The Wonderland Festival activities will start at 2 PM at Unity Plaza near the library. The parade will start at 4:30 PM at Georgia and Sonoma BLVD. The lighting ceremony will take place at 6 PM at the JFK library and the lighted board parade will start at 6:30 PM. You can find the information here: <https://www.hattervallejo.com/>

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO RODRIGUEZ HIGH SCHOOL BAND**

I was so impressed to read about the great things the RHS band has accomplished. Here is a great story in the Daily Republic highlighting their accomplishments: <https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/community/community-news-and-views/good-news-rhseu-a-great-finish-to-fall-season/>.

The RHS education unit is holding a fundraiser to support the band. They are selling See's candies through December 4<sup>th</sup>. A great way to buy your holiday presents and support RHS! Here is the link for more information: <https://www.rhseu.org/fundraiser-seescandies>

**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY**

Please don't forget that Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup> is Small Business Saturday. Please shop at local business in our community regularly but please make a special effort to do so on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for reading my November newsletter. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can ever be of help to you. Please be safe during the upcoming holiday. May you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Monica Brown

Solano County Supervisor, District 2



---

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.