



SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER

February 16, 2024



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Important Numbers Resources and Dates

District 2 Office

(707) 784-3031

Clerk of the Board & County Administrator's Office

(707) 784-6100

Veterans Services

(707) 784-6590

Health & Social Services

(707) 784-8400

Assessor/Recorder

(707) 784-6200

Resource Management

(707) 784-6765

Registrar of Voters

(707) 784-6675

Tax Collector/Treasurer/County Clerk

(707) 784-7485

Area Agency on Aging

(707) 784-8960

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

Black History Month moment



Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm was the first African American woman in Congress (1968) and the first woman and African American to seek the nomination for president of the United States from one of the two major political parties (1972). Her motto and title of her autobiography—*Unbought and Unbossed*—

illustrates her outspoken advocacy for women and minorities during her seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Ever aware of racial and gender inequality, she joined local chapters of the League of Women Voters, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Urban League, as well as the Democratic Party club in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.

In 1964, Chisholm ran for and became the second African American in the New York State Legislature. After court-ordered redistricting created a new, heavily Democratic, district in her neighborhood, in 1968 Chisholm sought—and won—a seat in Congress. There, “Fighting Shirley” introduced more than 50 pieces of legislation and championed racial and gender equality, the plight of the poor, and ending the Vietnam War. She was a co-founder of the National Women’s Political Caucus in 1971, and in 1977 became the first Black woman and second woman ever to serve on the powerful House Rules Committee. That same year she was also elected as Secretary of the House Democratic Caucus.

Discrimination followed Chisholm’s quest for the 1972 Democratic Party presidential nomination. She was blocked from participating in televised primary debates, and after taking legal action, was permitted to make just one speech. Still, students, women, and minorities followed the “Chisholm Trail.” She garnered 152 of the delegates’ votes (10% of the total)—despite an under-financed campaign and contentiousness from the predominantly male Congressional Black Caucus.

Chisholm retired from Congress in 1983 then taught at Mount Holyoke College and co-founded the National Political Congress of Black Women. Of her legacy, Chisholm said, “I want to be remembered as a woman ... who dared to be a catalyst of change.”

In 2015, Chisholm was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama.

Sources: Womenshistory.org, Archives.gov

Happy Lunar New Year!



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

Lunar New Year is a celebration of the arrival of spring and the beginning of a new year on the lunisolar calendar. It is the most important holiday in China, and it is also widely celebrated in South Korea, Vietnam, and countries with a significant overseas Chinese population. Those celebrating consider it the time of the year to reunite with immediate and extended family.

Commonly known as the Spring Festival in China, Lunar New Year is a fifteen-day celebration marked by many traditions. At home, families decorate windows with red paper cuttings and adorn doors with couplets expressing auspicious wishes for the new year. Shopping for holiday sundries in open-air markets and cleaning the house are also beloved traditions.

The Lunar New Year's Eve reunion dinner is the highlight that kicks off the holiday, a feast with a spread of symbolic dishes, such as a whole fish representing abundance, that bring good luck and fortune. The fifteenth and final day of the holiday is the Lantern Festival, during which people have *tangyuan*, or sweet glutinous rice balls, and children carry lanterns around the neighborhood at night to mark the end of the celebration.

In the Chinese zodiac, 2024 is the Year of the Dragon. Individuals born in the Year of the Dragon, according to the Chinese zodiac, are believed to possess certain characteristics and traits associated with the dragon. They tend to be ambitious, confident and charismatic. Different regions across Asia celebrate Lunar New Year in many ways and may follow a different zodiac. We also acknowledge that many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders do not observe the Chinese/lunar zodiac.

Information this week

Solano County closed during upcoming holiday



The Solano County Administrative Center will be closed in observance of President's Day on Monday, February 19.

March for our lives

I am sitting here in the office finishing up the newsletter. I am wearing my MARCH FOR OURS LIVES shirt. Once again, an event to celebrate a happy occasion is disrupted. There is always talk about the trauma people have in their lives and how those events are always with them. Trauma changes your life. Many people never recover, never trust, are never happy, are scared, and some never leave their home.

Wednesday was Valentines Day. I am watching the LAST WORD WITH LAWERNCE O'DONALD. Lawrence reminded his audience that it was 6 years ago when the shooting happened at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Parkland, Florida. David Hogg, one of the student survivors, was a guest on the show. David and other survivors organized the March for Our Lives. Thousands of marches were held around the country.

It has been 6 years, NOTHING has been done. Little kids were shot Wednesday in Kansas City. The reports indicate adolescences had guns. WHY? A Mom was killed. That family will never be put back together.

I know that I am not the only one when shopping or just out and about, checks where the exits are and what route I will take. When is enough, enough.

Benicia Road Design Workshop



The Solano County Department of Resource Management Planning Services Division is hosting a three-day design workshop inviting Homeacres property owners and residents to help identify ways to envision a safer and more attractive neighborhood along the County portion of Benicia Road.

The workshop will be occurring **Thursday March 14 through Saturday March 16 at the Vallejo JFK Library-Joseph Room** at 505 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo. Drop in visits and discussions are available every workshop day from 10am to 5:30pm.

Volunteer architects from around the region are committed to participating and sketching designs in real-time for area residents and developers to get a glimpse of Benicia Road's potential future.

This is the first-time Solano County Planning will be hosting this type of workshop which is more widely known as a design charrette.

The focus area is between Glen Cove Road/Rollingwood Drive and Homeacres Avenue.

Diaper Drive

MY BOTTOM IS TOP PRIORITY

DIAPER DRIVE
FEBRUARY 1ST-29TH

Did you know that nearly 1 in 2 families struggle to afford diapers to keep their babies clean, dry and healthy? You can make a difference!

Donate new unopened packages of diapers to these drop off locations to support Solano County children and families.

Organized by:

Diapers will support:

For questions call (707) 784-1332

DROP OFF LOCATIONS			
Vallejo	Fairfield	Benicia	Vacaville
First 5 Center 3375 Sonoma Blvd Ste #10	Napa-Solano Central Labor Council, Operating Engineers Local 3: 2540 N. Watney Way	Benicia Chamber of Commerce 601 1st St Ste. 100	Parents by Choice 490 Merchant St, Ste 101
Watch Me Grow Inc. Online Diaper Drive	Suisun Joseph Nelson Community Center: 611 Village Dr Suisun City Fire Department 621 Pintail Drive	RE/MAX Gold 426 1st St	Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club 100 Holly Ln

In the month of February, the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council will host a diaper drive to ensure local families have access to clean diapers.

Survey: San Francisco Bay Ferry wants to hear from you



The San Francisco Bay Ferry is asking residents to

take a quick 5-minute survey on how the service can best serve the Bay Area in the coming years.

San Francisco Bay Ferry is a ferry transit service of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA). Bay Area residents now have an opportunity to help WETA finalize a Ferry Service Vision for the year 2050 by prioritizing:

- Affordability
- Service frequency and speed
- Expansion
- Environmental sustainability

The survey is available in English, Spanish and Simplified Chinese. Survey participants will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$50 Clipper Card or a San Francisco Bay Ferry water bottle at the end of the survey.

To take the survey, click [here](#).

MTC to Seek Legislature's Approval to Put Bay Area Transportation Measure on 2026 Ballot



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has voted to seek state legislation which would enable Bay Area voters to consider a transportation revenue measure

as early as November 2026, the agency announced this week

"The proposed measure aims to advance a climate-friendly Bay Area transportation system that is safe, accessible and convenient for all," officials said in an official announcement. "This includes preserving and enhancing public transit service; making transit faster, safer and easier to use; repairing local streets and roads; and improving mobility and access for all people, including pedestrians, bicyclists and scooter and wheelchair users."

MTC expects any new transportation measure it pursues to generate at least \$1 billion annually. The Commission has not yet identified a revenue source for the proposed measure.

MTC is the transportation planning, financing and coordinating agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

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

BAHFA Advisory Committee recommends placing housing bond on 2024 ballot

The [Bay Area Housing Finance Authority](#)'s Advisory Committee has adopted a resolution recommending that the BAHFA Board and the Executive Board of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) submit for consideration by voters in all nine Bay Area counties this November a general obligation bond measure of as much as \$20 billion to produce more affordable housing, preserve existing affordable housing and protect current residents from displacement.

Voter approval of a \$20 billion bond is projected to spur the creation of some 80,000 additional affordable homes around the Bay Area in the coming years, the committee said.

To allow local governments to determine how best to produce and preserve affordable housing in their own communities, 80 percent of the money from the proposed bond would go directly to the nine counties as well as to four cities: San Jose, Oakland, Santa Rosa and Napa. BAHFA would invest the remaining 20 percent in affordable housing developments throughout the Bay Area, while also developing new resources to support affordable housing development after the bond money is fully spent.

BAHFA was established by the state Legislature in 2019 to support the construction of new affordable housing and the preservation of existing housing across the nine-county Bay Area. It is governed by the BAHFA board, which is composed of the same members as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and by the ABAG Executive Board. As required by state law, BAHFA's nine-member Advisory Committee is comprised of members with expertise in affordable housing finance, production, preservation and/or tenant protections.

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

Link21 Stakeholder Update January 2024

View the Link21 January 2024 Stakeholder Update to read a recap of last year's key accomplishments and stakeholder feedback, and learn about upcoming Program planning, and outreach activities.

Link21 is a long-range transportation program sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) and the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (Capitol Corridor) to transform the train network serving the 21-county Northern California Megaregion which includes the greater San Francisco Bay area, the Monterey Bay area, the Sacramento area and the Northern San Joaquin Valley.

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

Public hearing

Notice of Public Availability of Refinery Flare Minimization Plan Annual Updates



The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is releasing the 2022 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, 2021 – June 30, 2022;
- 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 2022 FMP Annual Updates is **Monday, February 26**.

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

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

Federal Review of MTC's Role in the Bay Area



Every four years, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) must certify that each metropolitan planning

organization (MPO) serving a transportation management area (TMA) — a designation by DOT of an urbanized area with a population over 200,000 as defined by the Bureau of the Census or smaller urbanized areas on request by the Governor and MPO — is carrying out the metropolitan planning process in adherence with federal statutes and regulations. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) conduct a review of the metropolitan planning process within each TMA and jointly issue this certification on behalf of the DOT Secretary, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 5303(k).

The FHWA and the FTA are hosting a public meeting as part of MTC's certification review. This public meeting is an opportunity for Bay Area residents to directly address FHWA and FTA officials concerning your views on the transportation planning process in the San Francisco–Oakland metropolitan area. Participants can attend in person or via Zoom or submit written comments.

The meeting is scheduled for:

Tuesday, February 27, from 4:30–5:30 p.m. Bay Area Metro Center, Yerba Buena Conference Room, First Floor 375 Beale Street, San Francisco, CA 94105 [Participate on Zoom](#) Webinar ID: 863 1915 0671 iPhone One-Tap:

+13462487799,,86319150671# US (Houston)
+12532158782,,86319150671# US (Tacoma)

Join by Telephone (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose) +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
833 548 0282 US Toll Free 877 853 5247 US Toll Free

Detailed instructions on participating via Zoom are available at: mtc.ca.gov/how-provide-public-comment-board-meeting-zoom

NAMI Solano County General Meeting

Leap into the future with hope and join the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Solano County for their monthly meeting

from 6 to 7:30pm, Thursday, February 29, Becker Balmer Meeting Room Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky St, Fairfield.

To join the meeting, visit [here](#). For more information, call (707) 438-9510 or info@namisolanoounty.org

Updates from around Solano County

Rodriguez High School FFA Students Excel, Advance to State Level in Proficiency Awards



Three students from Rodriguez High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) program earned proficiency awards and advancing to the state level in Agricultural Proficiency Awards.

Jessica Lopez Ruiz, Payton King, and Josie Coan have each demonstrated outstanding dedication and expertise in their respective areas of agricultural study.

The award honors FFA members who, through supervised agricultural experiences, have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers. Nationally, students can compete for awards in nearly 50 areas from wildlife management to agricultural communications. Proficiency awards are also recognized at local and state levels, recognizing members exploring and establishing agricultural career pathways.

Jessica Lopez Ruiz secured her second regional win in the Equine Science Placement category for her exceptional work at Iron Rock Dressage Ranch. Payton King earned a regional win in the Agricultural Sales Placement area, through her contributions at

Larry's Produce. Josie Coan achieved her second regional win in the Small Animal Care and Production category while volunteering at the Furry Felines Rescue.

These students' applications will now undergo state scoring next week, where they will learn if they have advanced to the interview process and the opportunity to compete on the grand stage at the State FFA Conference in March.

Congrats!

Solano County Fair seeks performers for 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee



The Solano County Fair announced that applications are now open for performers to be considered for the 75th Annual Solano County Fair - Diamond Jubilee, scheduled to take place from June 13 to 16.

The fair is actively seeking talented performers to showcase their skills and entertain the diverse audience which attends the fair each year. Whether you specialize in music, dance, magic, comedy, or any other form of entertainment, you are invited to apply and become part of this historic celebration.

To submit your application, click [here](#).

California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE)



Pacific Gas and Electric Company

The California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program is a monthly discount of 20% or more on gas and electricity. Participants qualify by meeting income guidelines or enrolling in certain public assistance programs. To

read more, click [here](#).

SFPD seeking 3 suspects in blessing scam targeting elderly women

Police in San Francisco announced recently that they are searching for at three suspects after two elderly women said they were recently victimized in a blessing scam.

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

Mocha Mommas Thrive Cohort #10

Solano Public Health's Black Infant Health Program is offering their virtual 9-week Mocha Mommas Thrive series that will begin on **Wednesday, April 10 from 5:30 to 7:30pm and will be held online.**

Expand your sisterhood village while enhancing your motherhood journey. Topics that will be covered include nurturing, attachment, parenting, self-care, discipline, communication, goal setting, relationships and more!

To register, click [here](#).

Call for Nominations for Inspiring Women of Vacaville

In honor of the upcoming Women's History Month (March), Vacaville People's Forum (VPF) is holding its fourth annual social media campaign to highlight Inspiring Women of Vacaville on the [VPF Facebook page](#).

This award acknowledges the achievements of extraordinary female-identified individuals of any age who live or work in Vacaville, or who contribute to the community's betterment. If you know an inspiring woman of Vacaville, please consider nominating her. The nomination form should not take long to complete, but you will need to have her contact information and provide some basic information about her involvements.

You can review the nomination form for more information about the process, as well as the criteria for selecting awardees: <https://forms.gle/Fg6qdXoVFGVEvEpo9>.

Please submit your nomination by **February 17, 2024**.

First 5 Solano Request for Applications

The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission (First 5 Solano) has released its Request for Application ("RFA #2024-01) for its Annual Grants Program.



The Annual Grants Fund is designed for one-time projects to address the needs of children ages 0-5, their parents/caregivers, and/or providers of services to children ages 0-5 in Solano County.

The Commission has committed up to \$120,000 in annual grants for FY2024/25. Multiple grants of up to \$20,000 each will be awarded for up to a 1-year period from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

Applications will be accepted for a wide variety of activities that align with the First 5 Solano Strategic Plan Framework and address a gap in services, address a community disparity, and/or address a time sensitive community need.

A mandatory letter of intent is due by February 12 and applicants must also attend a mandatory grant development session. The complete application is due by **March 11 at 5pm**.

For the complete RFA, instructions for submitting a Letter of Intent and the application, click [here](#).

Mobile Crisis Updates: Services in Vallejo

Pacific Clinic's Community Mobile Crisis team is now serving the city of Vallejo as of Feb. 1. If someone is experiencing a mental health crisis, Mobile Crisis services can be accessed by calling 911 and the crisis team will be informed and dispatched.

Services may include a phone triage and/or in-person de-escalation and safety planning and linking to resource services. The team is certified to provide an evaluation for a 5150 hold as needed.

The hours are Monday from Friday, 8:30am-10pm.

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

February calendar for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall

The February calendar of events for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall:

February 16: hamburgers with American Legion Auxiliary

19 Patty and Kevin Dinners watch for signups at bar; President's Day; official birthday of the United States Coast Guard Reserve. Officially set-up in the late 1930s as a "civilian reserve" operation, it was non-military in nature. The Coast Guard Reserve Act of 1939 was the earliest incarnation.

20 Veterans House Commission meeting

21 SONS AMERICAN LEGION meet at 1900 hours; Hot dogs;

23 hamburgers with VFW

24 Crab Feed Dinner, tickets at bar \$75 each

26 Patty and Kevin Dinners watch for signups at bar

The Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall is located at 1150 1st St, Benicia. For more information, click [here](#).

Community Investment Fund - Annual Grants 2024

The Solano County Administrator's Office is seeking highly qualified agencies to tackle the highest priority needs in Solano County. Through a human service needs assessment process, the Solano County Board of Supervisors identified the top six most pressing needs as follows:



1. Mental Health
2. Housing
3. Homelessness
4. Early Education
5. Youth Development
6. Safe and Stable Environments for Children

This assessment resulted in the development of a Community Investment Fund (CIF) with a 3-pronged funding approach. This Request for Proposals (RFP) addresses the implementation of an Annual Grants Program outlined in the Community Investment Fund.

The County Administrator's Office is seeking proposals to support the implementation of annual grants that address one or more of the above six most pressing needs in the county. To support the Annual Grant Program, the Solano County Board of Supervisors has allocated up to \$365,000 to be distributed to successful applicants. Proposers may apply for funding in either of the following funding tiers:

- A) Tier 1: Funding up to \$75,000 to implement larger projects, or B) Tier 2: Funding up to \$25,000 to support smaller community projects.

Only non-profit organizations are eligible to apply.

Responses due: March 11 by 5pm.

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

Arts Benicia



Join Arts Benicia Gallery for their annual Arts Benicia members-only Community Art Exhibition! An exhibition in which the wealth of talent of their regional member artists, ranging from those with

limited experience to master artists, is shared. The exhibition runs **through February 25**, and will feature over 150 works. Gallery Hours for the exhibition: Thursday to Sunday, 1 to 5 pm. The Arts Benicia Gallery is located at 1 Commandant's Lane

In addition, Arts Benicia also has special events related to the exhibition located at the Arts Benicia Gallery: **Ekphrastic Poetry Event, Sunday, February 18, 2 to 4 pm** and **Family Art Day**, Sunday, February 4, 1 to 3 pm.

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 our 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

Probability 2

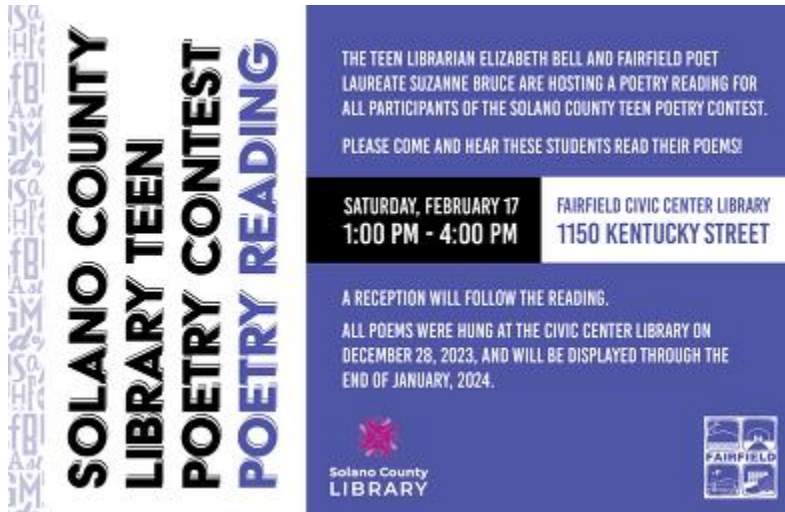
You are cordially invited to Probability 2, an interactive exhibit of sound sculptures at the NY2CA Gallery, 617 1st Street in Benicia. **The exhibit runs from February 1 through March 17, Thursday to Sunday, noon to 5 pm.**

Probability 2 is a new exhibition of interactive sound sculptures made collaboratively by visual artists Bodil Fox and Larnie Fox. The exhibition will be on display at NY2CA Gallery and combines materials favored by Bodil (copper, concrete, wire, felt, mixed media surface treatment) with those favored by Larnie (bamboo, plywood, recycled materials, motors).

The exhibition will be anchored by a performative installation covering the main walls with self-playing and playable wall-mounted amplified sound sculptures.

Upcoming events in Solano County

Teen Poetry Reading



**SOLANO COUNTY
LIBRARY TEEN
POETRY CONTEST
POETRY READING**

THE TEEN LIBRARIAN ELIZABETH BELL AND FAIRFIELD POET LAUREATE SUZANNE BRUCE ARE HOSTING A POETRY READING FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS OF THE SOLANO COUNTY TEEN POETRY CONTEST.

PLEASE COME AND HEAR THESE STUDENTS READ THEIR POEMS!

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY
1150 KENTUCKY STREET

A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW THE READING.

ALL POEMS WERE HUNG AT THE CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY ON DECEMBER 28, 2023, AND WILL BE DISPLAYED THROUGH THE END OF JANUARY, 2024.

Solano County LIBRARY

FAIRFIELD

Teen Librarian Elizabeth Bell and Fairfield Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce are hosting a teen poetry reading **from 1 to 4pm, Saturday, February 17, at the Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky Street.**

There will be introductions of the winners from a recent teen poetry contest, then all students will read their entries. A reception will follow the reading.

Please come and support these teens! It is important they know their voices are heard!

Celebrate Black History Month with Solano Public Health's Black Infant Health Program

Join the Black Infant Health team as they celebrate and highlight the positive impacts of African and Black Americans in areas of visual and performing arts, music, cultural movements and more on **Friday, February 23, 11am to 1:30pm, inside the Multi-Purpose Room, 2101 Courage Drive in the city of Fairfield.**

The documentary entitled "Black Art: In the Absence of Light" will be shown, which spotlights the indelible contributions of some of the most foremost African American artists in today's contemporary art world.

To register, click [here](#).

Trash mob

TRASH MOB

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024
ALLAN WITT PARK, 1741 W. TEXAS STREET



The city of Fairfield is looking for volunteers to help with its next Trash Mob on **Saturday, February 24, from 9 to 11 am, at Allan Witt Park, 1741 W. Texas Street.**

Snacks and water and all supplies will be provided, and Public Works will be on hand to collect the full trash bags.

Contact Karen Rees to register at krees@fairfield.ca.gov or call (707) 428-7767. Volunteers must complete a waiver form. For those under age 18, a parent or guardian signature is required. This is a great way for students to earn community service hours for school!

GVRD Block Party

GREATER VALLEJO
RECREATION DISTRICT

LET'S CELEBRATE!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HOMECOMING
BLOCK PARTY!

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 24TH
12-5PM

CHILDREN'S
WONDERLAND PARK
RAIN OR SHINE
EVENT!

DJ | DRUMLINE | PERFORMANCES | FOOD TRUCKS |
VENDORS | ARTWALK | RAFFLE |
DUNK & DOUBLE DUTCH CONTEST
| KIDS ZONE | AND MORE



Parks
Make
Life
Better!

(707)648-4600 | WWW.GVRD.ORG



The Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) will host a Black History Month "Homecoming" block party on **Saturday, February 24, from 12 to 5pm.**

This free event will be held at Children's Wonderland Park, 360 Glenn Street in Vallejo. Join in the celebration of Black History Month with entertainment, food, vendors, and more.

19th Annual Solano County African American Community Baby Shower

A More Excellent Way Health Organization and community partners are inviting African American pregnant and breastfeeding women and expectant fathers to the Virtual and Drive-Thru "More Excellent Way Community Baby Shower"



on Saturday, February 24, 2024. This event is free and will include health and education workshops and a drive-thru health and resource fair.

To register, click [here](#). For more information, contact Monique Sims at Mnqsims@gmail.com or call (707) 319-7489.

The event will take place from **10am to noon, Saturday, February 24, 2024** via Zoom for the health and education workshops, and at Refuge Community Fellowship Church, 104 Lincoln Road, Vallejo from **12:30 to 2:30pm** for the drive-thru health and resource fair.

Birth Justice Solano 2024: Addressing Racial Disparities in Birth Outcomes

Join the Birth Justice Solano 2024 Event in Vallejo on Sunday, February 25, where experts, doulas, nurses and public health administrators will come together for an informative and supportive event from **10am to 3pm, Sunday, February 25, at Touro University, 105 Owen Drive on Mare Island in Vallejo.**

Let's address the racial disparities in birth outcomes and work towards a healthier future for all!

To register for the event, click [here](#). If you are Interested in being a vendor, click [here](#).

Book Club



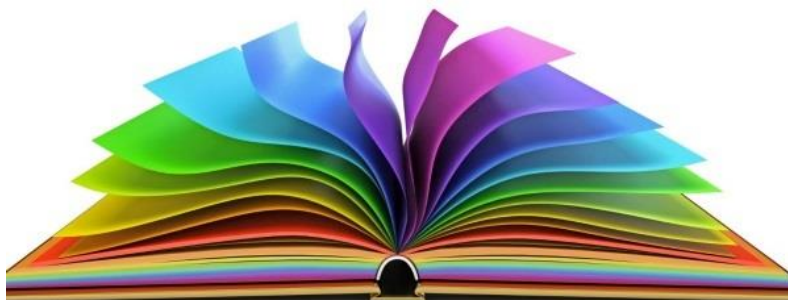
Web: solanolibrary.com
Phone: 1-866-572-7587
Facebook, Instagram, Twitter icons followed by: [solanolibrary](https://www.facebook.com/solanolibrary)

RAINBOW READS BOOK CLUB

A book club for teens with books featuring LGBTQ+ themes and/or LGBTQ+ authors. Come have some snacks, meet new friends, and get a copy of the book we'll read!

FAIRFIELD CIVIC
CENTER LIBRARY

JANUARY 23
FEBRUARY 27
MARCH 26
APRIL 23
4:15 PM



The next Teen Rainbow Reads book club takes place on **Tuesday, February 27 at 4:15pm inside the Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky Street.**

Teen Rainbow Reads is a book club where teens get to read teen books featuring LGBTQ characters. All teens are welcome to join this book club! Snacks will be provided, too!

Open House



Join the Museum of History, Benicia (MoHB) for a free evening at the Museum. Come out for a fun night of exhibits, surprises for the whole family, learn about the museum, how it operates, and volunteer opportunities, membership and so much more.

The open house will take place from 5 to 8pm, Thursday, February 29, at 2060 Camel Road in Benicia.

For more information, click [here](https://www.mohbenicia.org).

The Cold War: Mare Island's Secret War Beneath the Waves



The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation invites you to the Speakers Series: The Cold War: Mare Island's Secret War Beneath the Waves.

Join Master Chief Bill Linne and the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation as they present the story of Vallejo's own nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine. Built at Mare Island during the crucible of the Cold War, the submarine was the most powerful warship on earth built and manned under the highest national priority to address an existential threat to our nation.

In 1957, the Soviet leader slammed his shoe on the podium at an international conference and vowed to bury the West. The USS Mariano G. Vallejo (SSBN 658) had but one purpose: to prevent a Soviet preemptive nuclear attack. Her mission was to ensure that any attempt at a nuclear first strike by the Soviets would result in an unstoppable Armageddon being unleashed upon them.

The presentation will take place at 3pm, March 3 at St. Peter's Chapel, 1181 Walnut Ave, Mare Island, Vallejo.

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

The Muses Speak



The Muses Speak

Creative Writing Students

Poetry Reading

March 7, 2024 12-1:30 pm

In Person:

Quinton Duval Reading Area/
Solano Comm College Library
4000 Suisun Valley Rd, Fairfield
(Parking \$2 at kiosk)



Online:

Scan for zoom

Presented by:

Fairfield Poet Laureate

Suzanne Bruce

&

English Professor

Michael J. Wyly



QUESTIONS?
fairfieldpoetlaureate
@gmail.com



Fairfield Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce and Solano Community College English Professor Michael J. Wyly invite you to come and listen to poems written by SCC creative writing students from **12 to 1:30pm, Thursday, March 7, Solano Community College Library: Quinton Duval Reading Area, 400 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield.**

Parking: \$2 paid at Kiosks. The library is in the center of the campus.

Map: <https://welcome.solano.edu/fairfield-campus/>

Or connect through this [Zoom link](#). No registration required.

Movers & Shakers Breakfast Summit

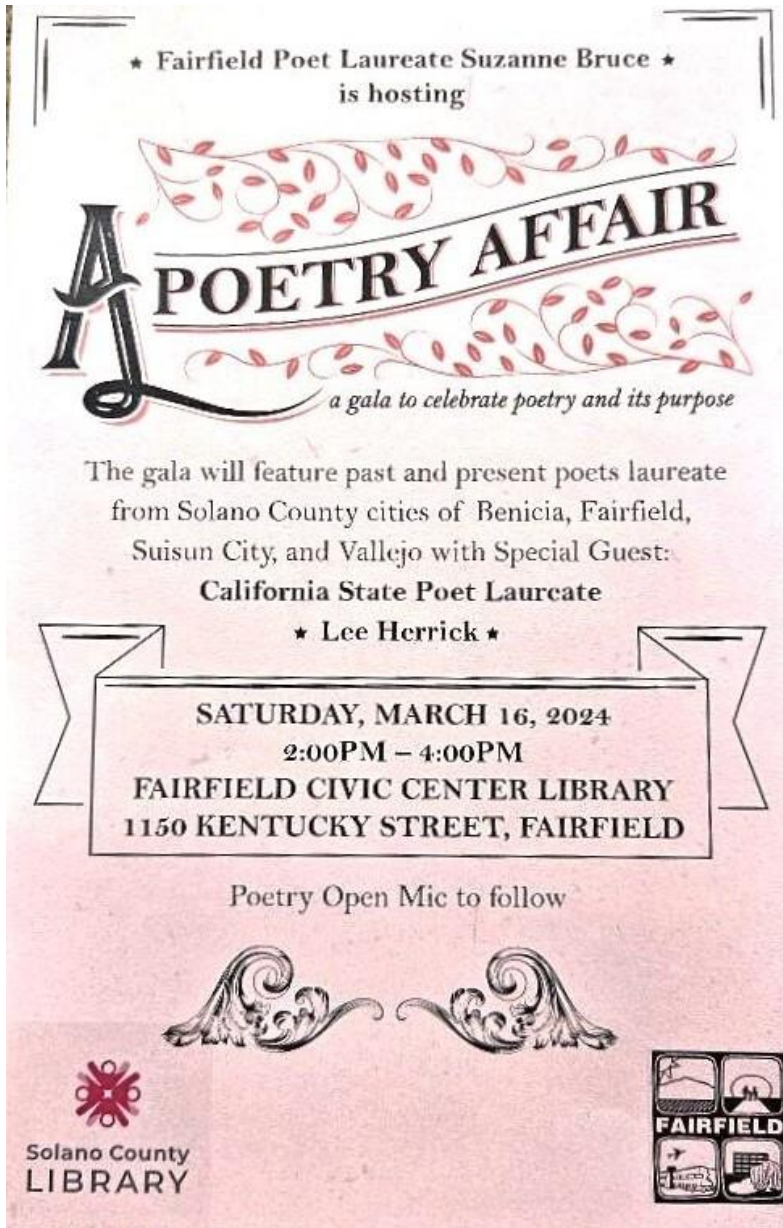
The Vacaville Chamber's **annual Movers & Shakers Breakfast Summit will be held March 13, at 8am inside** Vacaville Opera House, 560 Main Street, Vacaville.

This is the Vacaville Chamber's premier advocacy event of the year, bringing together policymakers and business leaders from throughout the county. The event will once again feature a State of the City presentation by Vacaville Mayor John Carli and City Manager Aaron Busch, along with a plated breakfast and networking.

Following the presentation, the city will be providing bus tours of select Vacaville sites for attendees to see first-hand what's in store for Vacaville's fantastic future.

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

“A Poetry Affair”



Fairfield Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce is hosting "A Poetry Affair," a gala to celebrate poetry and its purpose featuring past and present poets laureate from Solano County cities of Benicia, Fairfield, Suisun City and Vallejo with Special Guest: California State Poet Laureate Lee Herrick.

Poetry open mic following the reading of the poets laureate.

The gala will take place between 2 to 4pm, Saturday, March 16, inside the Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky Street, Fairfield.

Line Dancing Party

Join Us for a **LINE DANCE** *Party*

MAY 4, 2024

1 PM–6 PM

Dinner will be served.

Latin/Cinco de Mayo themed.

BENICIA CLOCK TOWER

1189 Washington St. | Benicia, CA

A Community Event
Presented By



**INNOVATIVE
HEALTH
SOLUTIONS**

TICKETS
\$30



<https://SecondAnnualLineDanceParty.eventbrite.com>

please RSVP

Contact our help line if you need
assistance purchasing tickets:
(707) 684-4376



Set your calendars for the 2nd Annual Line Dance party, scheduled from **1 to 6pm, Saturday, May 4** at the Benicia Clock Tower, 1189 Washington Street in the city of Benicia.

The event will celebrate Latin heritage, but there will be line dance instructors from all forms of line dancing. Dinner will be served around 3pm. There will also be resources for older adults.

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

Holi festival



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.

Events I attended this week

Tuesday, February 13, I attended the Benicia State of the City address held at the Clocktower. What I learned is that the fate of the city is in the hands of the residents. I am impressed with the outreach done by staff at the direction of the city council. The event was well attended. Food was good, and I was able to meet new people and hug a few, I have not seen in person in over a year.

Thursday, February 15, I attended the Fairfield State of the City address held at the Hilton with breakfast. The guest speaker was a professor from UCLA. His economic message ranged from macro to micro. I always enjoy hearing different points of view from economists. The city manager also spoke. The city does have

some financial issues. The cost of city services is greater than the income coming into the city coffers. Like our own personal expenses, the choices are increase revenues and decrease spending without hurting the services our residents need. It is a tight rope no matter if you are a city or county.

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

Front entrance to the California State University Maritime Academy in South 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.