



**SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER**

April 19, 2024



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**Happy Passover**



Passover is a holiday commemorating the Hebrews' liberation from slavery in Egypt and the "passing over" of the forces of destruction, or the sparing of the firstborn of the Israelites, when the Lord "smote the land of Egypt" on the eve of the Exodus. This story of redemption from slavery is the "master story" of the Jewish People



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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

– a story that has shaped Jewish consciousness and values. It is just as relevant today for all humankind as it was 3,400 years ago.

What and when is Passover?

Passover commemorates the biblical story of the Exodus. Passover 2024 begins on April 22, 2024, and ends on April 30, 2024. The date of Passover changes each year because the date is set not by the Gregorian calendar, but by the lunar-based Hebrew calendar. It always occurs during the Hebrew month of Nisan. On these seven (or eight) days, all leaven, whether in bread or other mixture, is prohibited, and only unleavened bread, called matzo, may be eaten. The matzo symbolizes both the Hebrews' suffering while in bondage and the haste with which they left Egypt during the Exodus. Passover is also sometimes called the Festival of Unleavened Bread.

What is Seder?

The ritual meal held to commence the Jewish festival of Passover. Passover is often celebrated with great pomp and ceremony, especially on the first night, when a special family meal called the seder is held. At the seder, foods of symbolic significance commemorating the Hebrews' liberation are eaten, and prayers and traditional recitations are performed. Though the festival of Passover is meant to be one of great rejoicing, strict dietary laws must be observed, and special prohibitions restrict work at the beginning and end of the celebration.

- *Brittanica, History.com*

## In Memoriam: Michael Garrity



My thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Michael Garrity, who passed away on April 12, 2024. Michael was a member of the Benicia American Legion.

There will be a celebration of his life at the Benicia Veteran's Hall on Tuesday, April 30 from 2:30 - 6:30 p.m. His friends are invited to celebrate his life and talk about their memories with him. Food and drink will be provided.

## 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

## Information this week

### Traffic Advisory



Caltrans is scheduled to alternately close eastbound and westbound State Route 37 (SR-37) on four consecutive weekends starting the weekend of **Friday, April 19**. Caltrans pushed back the start of this work due to recent rains.

During the 55-hour weekend full highway closures, Caltrans will perform major pavement repair work on eastbound and westbound SR-37 between Solano and Sonoma counties. One traffic direction on SR-37 will be worked on at a time. Detours will be in effect. All work is weather dependent.

Weekend closure on WB SR-37 is scheduled on the weekend of **April 19 & April 26**. WB SR-37 will be closed and traffic detoured beginning at the WB SR-37 Connector Off-ramp to SR-29 in Vallejo.

Closures will start **Friday April 19 at 9 p.m.** and conclude on the following **Monday, April 22 at 4 a.m.**

The following weekend, closures will start **Friday, April 26 at 9 p.m.** and conclude the following **Monday, April 29 at 4 a.m.**

#### **WB SR-37 DETOUR:**

Motorists traveling westbound on SR-37 will need to exit right onto northbound SR-29 (Sonoma Blvd) in Vallejo and continue on NB SR-29 (Broadway) in American Canyon to SR-29/SR-12; then turn left and continue on SR-12/SR-121 (Carneros Hwy/Fremont Dr);

turn left on SR-121 (Arnold Drive) and make a right back onto WB SR-37.

## EB SR-37 DETOUR:



Weekend closures on eastbound (EB) SR-37 is scheduled on the weekend of **May 3 & May 10**. EB SR-37 will be closed and traffic detoured beginning at the NB SR-121 (Sears Point) in Sonoma.

Closures will start **Friday, May 3 at 9 p.m.** and conclude on the following **Monday, May 6 at 5 a.m.**

The following weekend, closures will start **Friday, May 10 at 9 p.m.** and conclude on the following **Monday, May 13 at 5 a.m.**

Motorists traveling eastbound on SR-37 will need to exit left onto northbound SR-121 in Sonoma; Make a right on SR-12/SR-121(Carmeros Hwy) and continue; Right on SR-12/SR-29; Enter left for the connector loop Off-ramp back to EB SR-37.

Please note that all work is weather dependent. The weekends of May 3 and May 10 are scheduled as contingency if any scheduled work is delayed or postponed.

If you have a question or want to share a concern about the project, please call the **SR-37 Pave Project Hotline (510) 286-0319**.

You can also learn more about the SR-37 Paving Project on our Caltrans Bay Area project webpage at; [www.37pave.com](http://www.37pave.com)

## Industrial Safety Ordinance Survey



You're invited to take the

**INDUSTRIAL SAFETY ORDINANCE**

**SURVEY**

To take the survey, visit

**[www.EngageBenicia.com](http://www.EngageBenicia.com)**

The City of Benicia is working on developing an Industrial Safety Ordinance (ISO) in Benicia. An ISO aims to reduce accidental release of hazardous chemicals, improve accident prevention through community and industry participation, improve local air monitoring, and improve community transparency.

Officials are inviting everyone to complete a short, 14-question survey to help inform the process. This survey is designed to gather community insights and opinions on local air quality, environmental safety, and the implementation of an Industrial Safety Ordinance (ISO) in Benicia.

Your participation will help shape future management and oversight of these critical issues. Please inform your neighbors about this important opportunity to share their voices. **The final day to take the survey is Tuesday, April 30.**

To take the survey, click [here](http://www.EngageBenicia.com).



## Solano County water war? Local leaders say state plans to take 75% of area's supply



Leaders in Solano County fear a state water project will run them dry, proposing to take 75% of the county's current water supply.

They say the staggering impacts stem from draining local businesses to reinstating draconian water restrictions and threatening agriculture, which is the county's second leading industry. To read more, click [here](#).

## Solano County will host multiple Earth Day Cleanup Events



Solano County will host multiple Earth Day Cleanup Events in its annual celebration of Earth Day on April 20. Eleven cleanup sites are planned across the County, at locations from Blue Rock Springs

Park in Vallejo to Suisun City's waterfront to Lake Solano County Park in the coast range hills. Benicia will hold its Earth Day Cleanup on Saturday, April 27.

Each year, Solano County Earth Day Cleanup volunteers spend a morning removing between 5,000 - 10,000 pounds of trash and recyclables from community parks, trails, roadsides, and waterways.

This event is open to all who want to contribute to a positive change in our communities and help make Solano "clean and green".

Organizers welcome individuals, families and organized groups. Students, retirees, service and sport clubs, businesses and churches are all regular participants in this community-wide effort to care for our county.

Interested volunteers can find details about site locations, contacts and event times can be found by clicking [here](#).

## Join Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara for Health 4 All Week



Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara will join community health leaders across the state during the first Health for All week of education and outreach. With Governor Newsom’s signing of the 2023 budget, all Californians are now eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal coverage regardless of their immigration status. People attending Health for All Week events at seven cities will be able to sign up for Medi-Cal on-site and learn about other resources available at the more than 1,270 not-for-profit community health centers represented by the California Primary Care Association.

California has achieved the lowest uninsured rate ever, yet Asian, Black, and Latino Californians are two to three times more likely to be uninsured, [according to the California Health Care Foundation](#). Commissioner Lara authored the first Health for All Kids law as a state senator in 2015 covering all children, and the Legislature and Governor have since passed laws expanding Health for All to adults.

The graphic is a dark blue rectangular poster for 'Health4All Week'. On the left, it lists dates from April 18 to April 22 with corresponding event locations and times. In the center, there is a circular portrait of Ricardo Lara. To the right of the portrait, the text 'Health4All Week' is written in white. Below the portrait, there is a QR code and text encouraging people to join Commissioner Lara to learn about resources and eligibility for Medi-Cal.

Date	Time	Location
April 18	10 AM	Oakland La Clinica
	2 PM	Sacramento One Community Health
April 19	10 AM	Santa Rosa Santa Rosa Community Health Center
April 20	10 AM	Central Los Angeles Consulate General of Mexico
April 21	10 AM	San Diego Neighborhood Healthcare
	2 PM	Riverside Riverside University Health System
April 22	10 AM	Southeast Los Angeles AltaMed Health Services South Gate

Join Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara and learn what free resources are available to you and find out if you are eligible for Medi-Cal. Follow QR Code for more information:

## 41 States That Won't Tax Social Security Benefits in 2024

Roughly one in seven retirees in the U.S. [rely on Social Security](#) for nearly all their income, according to an AARP analysis. But these benefits don't always come without Uncle Sam's strings attached.

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

## **The National Maternal Mental Health Hotline is live**

The National Maternal Mental Health Hotline is live! The Hotline, funded by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and powered by Postpartum Support International, is available 24/7, 365 days a year, in English or Spanish and other languages by request.

Staffed by licensed and credentialed perinatal mental health and healthcare providers, childbirth professionals, and certified peer specialists, the Hotline provides immediate and informed access to support, understanding, brief intervention, and resources to all pregnant, postpartum, and post-loss individuals and their partners and families.

Call or text the Hotline anytime to connect. **You do not need a diagnosis to reach out for help.**

**National Maternal Mental Health Hotline: 1-833-943-5746**

## **Health Alert from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)**

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is advising consumers to stop the use of the Vietnamese Herbal Ointment for Hemorrhoids CAO BOI TRI CAY THAU DAU due to the extremely high lead content, posing a severe risk of lead poisoning to users.

A woman in Sacramento developed severe lead poisoning and died after using the ointment. If you have used this ointment, contact your health care provider immediately to get your blood tested for lead.

For resources on keeping yourself safe from lead, visit the [Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch](#). For additional questions, reach out to Yolanda Smaldino at (707) 469-4596 or at [YGSaldino@SolanoCounty.com](mailto:YGSaldino@SolanoCounty.com).

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## Public hearings

### Glen Cove Community meeting



The Glen Cove Community Association is hosting a town-hall style community meeting from **6pm to 8pm on Wednesday, May 1, at Glen Cove Elementary School, 501 Glen Cove Parkway.**

Join in to discuss issues that are important to Glen Cove neighborhoods and our community as a whole. Speaking guests include the Fire Safe Council, the Benicia-Vallejo Food Co-operative, and Seneca Family of Agencies sharing about opportunities to become a part of the resource parent community.

For any questions, email [info@glencovevallejo.com](mailto:info@glencovevallejo.com).

### General Plan Update meetings coming in May



The city of Fairfield will be holding meetings for the General Plan Update draft policies on May 1 and May 2. These policies will implement the community's vision for future growth and development and have

been informed by soliciting community input for the last three years.

Results and input from both meetings will be shared with the City Council at the May 7 meeting. The public is invited to observe and comment during the public comment period of each meeting.

**May 1: Planning Commission to review General Plan Update draft policies and provide input. 6 p.m. at the Harry T. Price Memorial Council Chamber.**

**May 2: General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) to review General Plan Update draft policies and provide input. 6 p.m. online at <https://dyettandbhatia.zoom.us/j/86960852919> , Meeting ID: 869 6085 2919.**

**May 7: City Council to review General Plan Update and provide direction. 6 p.m. at the Harry T. Price Memorial Council Chamber.**

The Draft General Plan will be released for public review in the summer of 2024. Please visit [www.fairfieldforward.com](http://www.fairfieldforward.com) or contact

Jessie Hernandez, Associate Planner, at (707) 428-7450 or [jhernandez@fairfield.ca.gov](mailto:jhernandez@fairfield.ca.gov) for more information.

The Council Chamber located at 1000 Webster Street.

## Help Inform MTC's 2024 Equity Priority Communities Update



**The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is updating the Bay Area's designated Equity Priority Communities and invites feedback on the proposed changes by May 15.**

(MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) have developed a draft update to the geographies of the region's [Equity Priority Communities](#) (EPCs), which help inform long-range planning efforts such as [Plan Bay Area 2050+](#), as well as funding and public engagement priorities.

While the methodology remains consistent with past updates, proposed changes to Bay Area EPCs include census tracts and updated thresholds of demographic variables based on the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) data (2018-2022).

MTC and ABAG invite your feedback on the [Draft 2024 EPC update](#), which includes:

- A [technical memo](#) detailing the proposed changes;
- An [interactive map](#) visualizing the proposed EPCs using the latest census tract geographies; and
- [Comparison maps](#) showing the changes in EPCs since the last update.

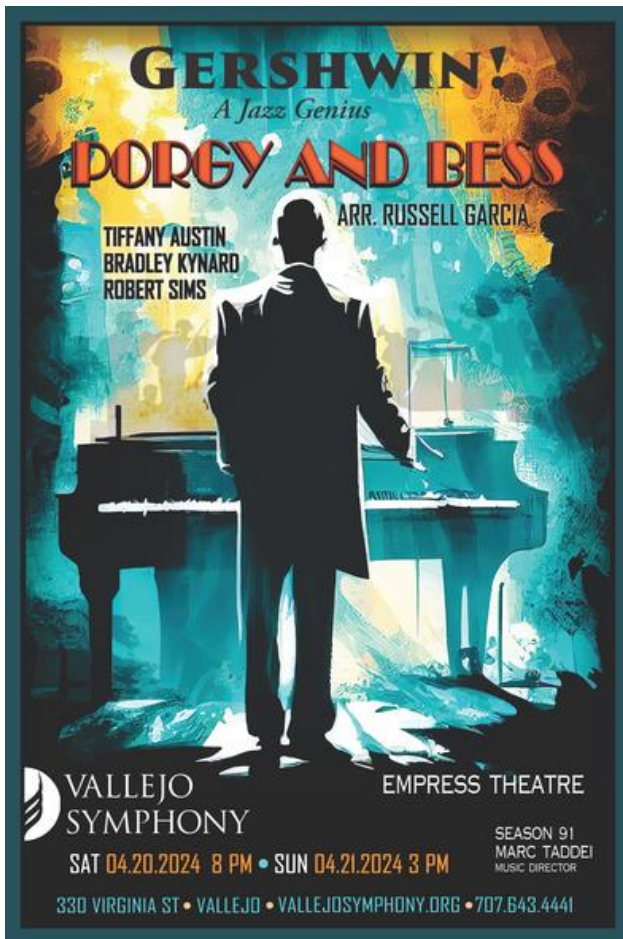
Those wishing to give feedback on the proposed changes to designated Bay Area EPCs are encouraged to do so by filling out the comment form on the MTC website: [www.mtc.ca.gov/2024EPC](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/2024EPC). Comments also may be submitted via email to [info@planbayarea.org](mailto:info@planbayarea.org) using the subject line "EPC Update."

Following the comment period, staff will review and leverage the feedback received to inform the Final 2024 EPC Update. The update will then be incorporated into the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Final Blueprint, currently slated for adoption in fall 2024, and will be used in the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Equity Analysis Report in 2025, among other important deliverables.

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## Updates from around Solano County

### Vallejo Symphony



Porgy and Bess by George Gershwin. Arranged by Russell Garcia.

**Performances at 8 p.m., Saturday, April 20, and 3 p.m., Sunday, April 21 at the Empress Theatre, 330 Virginia Street in downtown Vallejo.**

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

## National Crime Victims' Rights Week



The Solano County District Attorney's Office in partnership with Fairfield and Vacaville Police departments will hold a moment of reflection honoring National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The moment of reflection will take place **Thursday, April 25 at 12 p.m. on the steps of the courthouse, 600 Union Avenue, Fairfield.**

This year's theme is "Options, Services, and Hope for Crime Survivors. How Would you Help?" The 2024 theme asks all of us—friends, family members, neighbors, colleagues, community leaders, victim service providers, criminal justice practitioners, and health professionals—how we can help crime victims. This year's theme is a call to action for us all to create a safe environment for crime victims to share what happened to them.

We often talk about defendants' rights in the criminal justice system, and we work to ensure these rights are always upheld, however, often lost in these conversations are crime victims - those who have been victimized at the hands of another.

## SolTrans is going paperless



SolTrans is going paperless and eliminating all paper fare passes effective July 1, 2024. SolTrans already has several digital fare payment options available like [Token Transit](#), [Clipper Card](#) (cash value and passes), and [Clipper START](#). Exact cash and coins will continue to be accepted to purchase one-way fares and day passes on all local and express services.

SolTrans is also looking into Open Loop Payment readers, which will allow riders to pay with their debit, credit cards, or digital wallets

to complete fare payments onboard SolTrans buses. Riders will no longer have to pay in cash or download any app in advance. More to come...

Prefer to pay your bus fare from the palm of your hand? Download the [Token Transit App](#). Show your activated pass to the driver, board, and GO!

## ODE TO JOY concert



Celebrate the premiere of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony 200 years ago by hearing it performed live, in the city of Benicia on Saturday, May 25 at 3pm. This cross-cultural collaboration features performers from the SF Bay Area and the state of Graubünden, Switzerland - which is celebrating the 500th anniversary of their founding in 1524!

Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue turns 100 years old in 2024 too - and Swiss pianist [Cinzia Regensburger](#) will perform the much loved classic in both the Bay Area and Switzerland.

**Saturday, May 25, 3pm: Historic Clock Tower in Benicia, CA**

ODE TO JOY is a collaboration between the [Golden Gate Symphony Orchestra & Chorus](#), the non-profit organization [Scuol Classics](#), and the [Scuol/Tarasp Tourist Bureau](#) in the Engadin Valley of Switzerland.

To purchase tickets, click [here](#).

## Callie's Kids Camps 2024



Museum of History Benicia is excited to present Callie's Kids Camps. All of the camp sessions have plenty of opportunities for collaboration and fun. Each day is full of exploratory activities and adventure. For more information and/or to register,

click [here](#).



## Benicia Farmer's Market



**BENICIA CERTIFIED  
FARMERS  
MARKET**

*Celebrating 32 years!*

**OPENING APRIL 18th**  
THURSDAYS  
4 - 8 PM | APR 18 - AUG 29  
4 - 7 PM | SEP 5 - OCT 24  
FIRST STREET BETWEEN B&D

[WWW.BENICIAMAINSTREET.ORG](http://WWW.BENICIAMAINSTREET.ORG)



## Solano County Fair selling yard signs in support of Diamond Jubilee



**PROUD  
SUPPORTER  
of  
SOLANO COUNTY  
FAIR FUN**

**JUNE 13-16, 2024**  
[SCFAIR.COM](http://SCFAIR.COM)

In celebration of the Solano County Fair's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the fair association has created a lawn sign program so those who wish to celebrate the diamond jubilee can do so. The yard signs are selling for \$75 to honor 75 years of the fair. The signs and stands are sold out of the SCFA Office on the fairgrounds.

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

## NAMI Solano County Mental Health Educational Classes



NAMI Solano's first ever Justice Involved Peer-to-Peer Class will be held via Zoom for 9 consecutive weeks, from April 25 through June 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. There is no fee, but

registration is required as space is limited. To join, register [here](#).

The next 8-week general Peer-to-Peer Class will start on May 1 and runs through June 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. via Zoom. There is no fee, but registration is required as space is limited. To join, register [here](#).

The next 9-week Family-to-Family Class will start on April 24 and runs through June 19 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. There is an option of attending in-person at the Fairfield office or via Zoom. No fee, but registration is required as space is limited. To join, register [here](#).

For additional questions, contact Program Manager Tara Delisle at [tara@namisolanocounty.org](mailto:tara@namisolanocounty.org) or 707-439-5519.

## State Water Efficiency & Enhancement (SWEEP) Grant



The Solano County Farm Bureau is administering the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP), which provides financial assistance to farmers and ranchers in the form of grants to implement irrigation systems that reduce greenhouse gases

and save water on California agricultural operations.

Applications from Alameda, Contra Costa, Sacramento, Solano, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Yolo County will be accepted with priority to those qualifying as socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. CDFA's definition for SDFR is: "Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher" means a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group.

Eligible system components include (but not limited to):

- \*soil moisture monitoring
- \*drip systems
- \*switching to low-pressure irrigation systems
- \*pump retrofits

- \*variable frequency drives, and
- \*installation of renewable energy to reduce on-farm water use and energy.

Free Technical Assistance Support is being provided by Blankenship & Associates. Please contact Katie Simpson-Johnson at (530) 757-0941 or email [katie@h20sci.com](mailto:katie@h20sci.com) to schedule a Technical Assistance appointment or to ask questions regarding your application.

Various zoom workshops are planned for 10 a.m. to noon, [April 19](#) and [April 26](#). To register click on the dates. To fill out an interest form, click [here](#).

## Solano Senior Fraud Prevention Center



Solano Public Health's Older and Disabled Adult Services (ODAS) Bureau is proud to announce the launch of their new website, [www.SolanoScamCenter.org](http://www.SolanoScamCenter.org) which houses the Solano Senior Fraud Prevention Center, to address financial abuse among seniors. Due to a significant portion of clients reporting financial abuse last year (about one-third of clients which totaled close to 750 individuals), ODAS began the Financial Abuse Media Campaign.

This campaign focused on financial abuse prevention among the senior population. Nationally, seniors lose more than \$3 billion each year, or an average of \$34,200 per victim. Unfortunately, this type of abuse is under-reported, so the loss is likely greater.

Hopefully, through the Solano Senior Fraud Prevention Center, seniors and others will be educated so that they will not become a victim. The new website Solano Senior Fraud Prevention Center is on the Network of Care – [www.SolanoCares.org](http://www.SolanoCares.org) site, [www.SolanoScamCenter.org](http://www.SolanoScamCenter.org).

## Join SolTrans every 2nd Friday



Join SolTrans at the Vallejo Transit Center for "Second Fridays at SolTrans". On the second Friday of every month from 2 to 4:30 p.m., local community partners are invited to share their information and resources with riders and neighbors. Come down to celebrate each month's theme, enjoy music, and an appreciation for transit.

## Solano College students get vouchers instead of fines



The Solano Community College Department of Public Safety recently rolled out a Fix-a-Falcon Bulb Replacement Program in collaboration with the college's automotive training center and local repair shops to provide repair vouchers to students who are stopped for an equipment violation instead of fixing citations on campus or off campus.

SCCDPS understand that students already have a lot on their plates and they don't want to add to their burdens. Receiving a fixing ticket could entail taking time out of their busy school schedules to purchase a replacement item, and if they're unable to make the change themselves, they may need to visit a repair shop, locate an officer to sign off on the ticket, and pay court processing fees.

This process can be costly and time-consuming for the students. These vouchers address issues such as malfunctioning bulbs on their vehicles, thereby enhancing safety while mitigating financial burdens, especially for economically disadvantaged students.

To be eligible for this program, you must be currently enrolled as a student at SCC. The voucher can be issued to SCC students during a traffic stop or casual encounters on campus. Additionally, SCC students who receive bulb-related citations from other law enforcement agencies off campus are also eligible, provided they are currently enrolled at SCC. With the voucher, students can arrange for a free replacement of the faulty item by contacting DPS. This program benefits everyone involved and contributes to safer roads.

For more information on the Fix-A-Falcon Bulb Replacement Program, contact SCCDPS at 707-864-7131 or email us at [sccdps@solano.edu](mailto:sccdps@solano.edu).

## Vaccination clinics

**FREE FLU SHOTS, TDAP AND COVID-19\* VACCINES IN SOLANO, CA**

\*For 19+ years uninsured individuals

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Thursday, April 11, 2024	4:30-6:30 PM	Hogan Middle School 850 Rosewood Ave, Vallejo, CA 94591 <i>inside the gymnasium</i>
Saturday, April 13, 2024 <small>Supporting Solano Public Health</small>	10 AM-2 PM	Solano Dream Center 2166 Sacramento St. Vallejo, CA 94590
Thursday, April 25, 2024	4:30-6:30 PM	Vallejo High School 840 Nebraska St. Vallejo, CA 94590 <i>inside the Finney MPR (Next to the Baseball Field)</i>
Tuesday, May 7, 2024	3-5 PM	Heritage Apartments Summer Health Fair 55 Valle Vista Ave, Vallejo, CA 94590
Wednesday, May 8, 2024	11 AM-2 PM	A day in the Park with Mensa Christi St. Catherine of Siena Ministry 505 Santa Clara St. <i>Behind the JFK Vallejo library</i>
Thursday, May 9, 2024	4:30-6:30 PM	Hogan Middle School 850 Rosewood Ave, Vallejo, CA 94591 <i>inside the gymnasium</i>



## Arts Benicia



Arts Benicia's two current exhibitions will continue through April 28. **Explorations in Monochromatic Art**, juried by **Leah Rosenberg**, features art of diverse mediums based on a single-color hue. The second exhibition, **Randall Sexton with The Outsiders**, features paintings by Randall Sexton (1958 - 2023) and members of The Outsiders, a group of plein air artists who painted together at scenic Bay Area locations.

Looking forward to May, please mark your calendars for **Open Studios/Benicia Art Weekend**, on **May 4 and 5**, when studios and galleries will welcome visitors to see why Benicia is an art destination. Arts Benicia will be hosting eight artists at the Commanding Officer's Quarters during the weekend and presenting demonstrations at our printmaking studio at the Arts Benicia Annex on Tyler Street. With music on the porch, it will be a lively and artful weekend –not to miss!

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 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. Consider checking out the new classes listed on Arts Benicia's website. 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 Arts Benicia 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) or visiting <https://artsbenicia.org/sponsorship/>

Inquiries? Email: [info@artsbenicia.org](mailto:info@artsbenicia.org) or visit <http://artsbenicia.org>

## Anything Goes

A promotional poster for the musical 'Anything Goes'. The background is a vibrant blue with a wavy, water-like pattern. In the center, a woman with red hair, wearing a yellow sailor-style dress and a white sailor's cap, is framed by a red and white life preserver. A red ribbon banner with the title 'ANYTHING GOES' in yellow, stylized letters is draped across the life preserver. Below the banner, the dates 'APRIL 19 - MAY 5' are printed in large yellow letters. Underneath the dates, it says 'presented by Solano College Theatre' and '4000 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield'. The credits list 'MUSIC AND LYRICS BY COLE PORTER', 'ORIGINAL BOOK BY P.D. WODEHOUSE & GUY BOLTON AND HOWARD LINDSAY & RUSSEL CROUSE', and 'NEW BOOK BY TIMOTHY CROUSE & JOHN WEIDMAN'. At the bottom, it lists 'DIRECTED BY CHRISTINE MAN', 'CHOREOGRAPHY BY LIZ ANDREWS', and 'MUSICAL DIRECTION BY MICHAEL REILLY'. On the left, there is a circular logo for 'SCT' and the text 'FOLLOW US ONLINE @SOLANOCOLLEGETHEATRE'. On the right, there is a QR code with the text 'SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS!' and the website 'SOLANO.EDU/THEATER'. At the very bottom, it states 'EVERY SHOW will be ASL interpreted by performers ON STAGE' and 'ANYTHING GOES is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC' with the website 'www.concordtheatricals.com'.

Solano College Theatre (SCT) is pleased to announce its spring musical Anything Goes directed by SCT's Artistic Director Christine Mani.

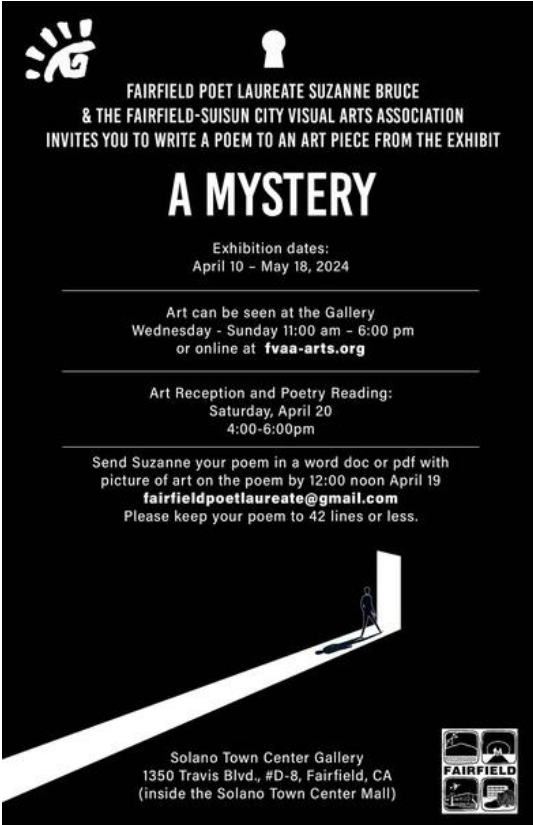
Anything Goes is a rousing musical set aboard the ocean liner S.S. American. This show tells the riotous story of nightclub singer and former evangelist, Reno Sweeney, whose pal Billy Crocker has stowed away to be near his love Hope Harcourt ... who is already engaged to the wealthy Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. Joining this love triangle on board are Public Enemy #13, Moonface Martin, and her sidekick-in-crime Erma. With the help of some elaborate disguises, tap-dancing sailors, and good old-fashioned blackmail, Reno and Moonface join forces to help Billy in his quest to win Hope's heart.



This production features a new adventure into inclusion—student-actors will be interpreting the entire show into ASL as they perform.

**It runs April 19 to May 5 with Friday and Saturday shows at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. There will also be a Thursday evening show on April 25 at 7:30 p.m.**

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.solano.edu/theatre](http://www.solano.edu/theatre) or call (707) 864-7000 ext. 4466.

## "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

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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)


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

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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](#).

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## **Upcoming events in Solano County**

### **Rush Ranch 33rd Annual Open House**



Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 20**, as the Annual Rush Ranch Open House is fast approaching! This year's event promises an array of exciting activities for everyone. **The event will run from 10am to 3pm at 3521 Grizzly Island Road in Suisun City.**

Meet the resident horses at Rush Ranch, take a tranquil horse-drawn wagon ride, and browse the wares of local artists and farmers to find a perfect gift for a friend. Additionally, you can savor some delicious food, enjoy local entertainment, take a guided hike on one of the trails, and enter a raffle to win fabulous prizes! With so much to do, this event is free not to be missed!

Rush Ranch stretches across 2,070 acres of marsh and rolling grassland. For most of the 20th century, the ranch was operated by

the Rush family. Purchased by Solano Land Trust in 1988 with a grant from the Coastal Conservancy, Rush Ranch was designated as part of the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in 2003.

You can visit Rush Ranch 7 days a week year-round. Open hours are 8am to 5pm November 1 through February 28 and 8am to 7pm March 1 through October 31. For more information call (707) 432-0150.

## Blues, Brews & BBQ Cook-off

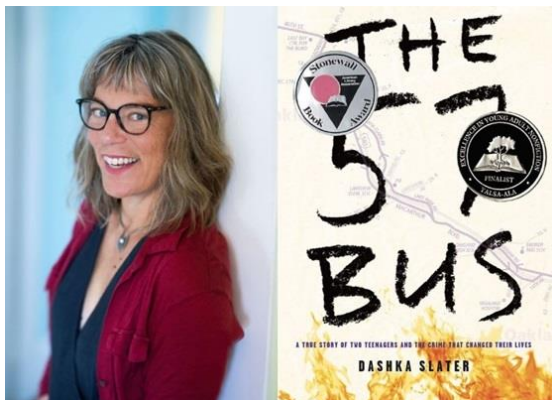


The third annual Blues, Brews, and BBQ Cook-off is back on **Saturday, April 20 from 12 to 4 p.m.** on the County Green in downtown Vallejo. This promises to be a great time, so mark your calendar.

Sip on ice cold adult beverages, savor the smoky goodness of BBQ and other yummy eats, and groove to the smooth sounds of Ideateam!

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

## Benicia Library to host true crime author Dashka Slater





The Benicia Public Library will host author Dashka Slater, an award-winning journalist who writes for such publications as The New York Times Magazine and Mother Jones. Dashka is also the author of many books of fiction and non-fiction for children, teenagers, and adults. Her work has been translated into more than fifteen languages and has won many awards.

Dashka will be discussing her true crime narrative, *The 57 Bus*, which has received numerous accolades, including the 2018 Stonewall Book Award from the American Library Association, the 2018 Beatty Award from the California Library Association, the California Book Award Gold Award for Young Adult Literature, and a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor. In 2021, *The 57 Bus* was named to Time Magazine's list of the 100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time.

The presentation will last about an hour, followed by an opportunity to meet the author and have books signed. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

The event will take place at 2 p.m., Saturday, April 20 inside the Benicia Public Library, 150 E L Street.

## 29th Annual Benicia Classic Car Show



**29th BENICIA CLASSIC CAR SHOW**  
www.classiccarshowbenicia.com

**Benicia Classic Car Show**  
29th annual April 21, 2024  
Presented by Benicia Panther Band

REGISTER VEHICLE HERE  
BECOME A VENDOR HERE  
BECOME A SPONSOR HERE

Presented by Benicia Panther Band  
Proceeds support Benicia High School Music Program  
**BENICIA WATERFRONT April 21, 2024 / 9AM-3PM**

**FREE ADMISSION**  
• BEER & WINE • RAFFLE PRIZES • FOOD VENDORS

The Benicia High School Band Boosters will be presenting the 29th Annual Benicia Classic Car Show on **Sunday, April 21** on the First



Street Green located at the corner of 1st St and East B St in Benicia. **The event runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

This event is the biggest fundraiser to support the high school marching band, color guard, jazz, and concert music programs. The show displays American-made 1989 and earlier vehicles. The picnic-like event usually draws 5,000 spectators. There will be oldies-type music, silent auction, prizes, and awards as well as our own high school traveling musicians. Spectator attendance is free.

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

## **Fairfield To Host Compost Giveaway Day**

The city of Fairfield and Republic Services are holding a free compost giveaway event for Fairfield residents from **9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 27 at the Dunnell Nature Park and Education Center at 3351 Hillridge Drive in Fairfield.**

No appointment is necessary; however, proof of residency is required. Master Gardeners from the UCCE Solano will be onsite to provide residents with information about compost uses and other horticultural tips and tricks.

The compost will be delivered in bulk and residents should bring their own containers/ bags to fill up and take home. Residents can take as much compost as they want while supplies last. This is a self-serve event, but shovels and gloves will be provided for use.

The compost is from Northern Compost (Yolo County) and is listed by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) for use in organic production, approved as an Organic Input Fertilizing Material by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and is certified with the United States Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance. The compost is made from recycled green material, food waste, and woody material collected from residential organic carts.

The compost giveaway events are part of the City's sustainability and Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) goals. If you would like to volunteer at the giveaway, please call the number below.

For questions related to the Compost Giveaway Day or for general questions regarding solid waste and recycling, contact the Fairfield Public Works Department, Solid Waste Division at (707) 428-7528.

## Fairfield Police joins DEA for National Prescription Drug Take Back Day April 27



From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on **Saturday, April 27** in coordination with the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Fairfield Police Department will host DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day at 1000 Webster Street. They will collect tablets, capsules, patches, and other solid forms of prescription drugs.

For more than a decade, the event has helped Americans easily rid their homes of unneeded medications—those that are old, unwanted, or expired—that too often become a gateway to addiction. In partnership with local law enforcement, Take Back Day has removed 8,950 tons of medication from circulation since its inception.

Collection sites will not accept syringes, sharps, and illicit drugs. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container. The cap must be tightly sealed to prevent leakage. Take Back Day offers free and anonymous disposal of unneeded medications at close to 5,000 local drop-off locations nationwide.

For more information and to find a collection site near you, visit [www.DEATakeBack.com](http://www.DEATakeBack.com).

## Junk in the Trunk event at Laurel Creek Community Park May 4

Have something to sell? Or looking to pick up a new treasure? Then you're in luck. The city of Fairfield's Parks and Recreation Department will host its biannual "Junk in the Trunk" event, which will take place on **Saturday, May 4 from 9 am to 1 pm in the Laurel Creek Community Park parking lot at 2986 Gulf Drive.**



Bring your goods to our community garage sale or buy some treasures! Junk in the Trunk will serve as a space where people in

the community can bring their household items to sell right out of the trunk of their car. Seller fees are \$30 for two parking spots or \$55 for three spots. General admission is free to the public.

For more information, or to participate as a seller, click [here](#).

## Free vision screening & free eyeglasses event

The Lion's Delta Zone presents free vision screening & free eyeglasses on **Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, St. Vincent Ferrer Memorial Building, 481 Florida St. Services include screening exams by licensed doctors, free pair of recycled eyeglasses or referral for further treatment.

To register for the event, click [here](#).

## Girls on the Rise



*Girls on the Rise:*  
*Find your place in the legal field*

Saturday May 4th  
10-2pm  
Solano County Event Center  
601 Texas Street  
Fairfield



This inaugural event supported by the Solano Superior Court, Solano Bar Association and Solano Commission for Women and Girls is an opportunity for young women, ages 15 to 25, interested in the legal field to connect with local women leaders in law and criminal justice to gain valuable insights, engage in thought-provoking discussions, and experience a courtroom tour.

Join us to delve into the dynamic world of law!



Free to attend  
Eventbrite registration is required, click the  
"Join Us" link above or use the QR code  
Space is limited



scba@solanobar.org

The Girls on the Rise: Find Your Place in the Legal Field will be an exciting in-person event where participants will delve into the dynamic world of law! This event offers a unique opportunity, for young women ages 15 to 25, to connect with influential women leaders, gain valuable insights into the legal field, experience a courtroom tour, and engage in thought-provoking discussions.

Whether a high school student, recent graduate, or simply interested in exploring various career paths in the legal field, this forum is tailored to meet your needs.

The event will take place from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday May 4**, at the Solano County Event Center 601 Texas Street, Fairfield.

To register, click [here](#).

## Line Dancing Party



The poster is a vertical rectangular graphic with a light orange background. It features text, logos, a QR code, and an illustration of four diverse people line dancing. The text is arranged in two columns. The left column contains the event title, date, time, location, and a logo. The right column contains the presenter's name, ticket price, a QR code, a URL, and contact information. The illustration at the bottom shows four people of different ages and ethnicities dancing joyfully, with musical notes floating around them. A logo in the bottom left corner reads 'EVERYBODY LOVES LINE DANCING'.

**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**

**EVERYBODY LOVES  
LINE  
DANCING**

## Kyle Hyland Foundation Super 60s/70s Celebration

### ***A SUPER 60'S/70'S CELEBRATION***

**A dessert auction, and dance party with live band!**

**Saturday, May 4, 6-10pm**  
**Hyland Teen Center, 1135 Church St.**

**Dinner and drinks - \$45 per person**  
**Advance purchase only by 4/26**

**Costumes optional... Let's boogie down!!!**

**[www.kylehyland.com](http://www.kylehyland.com)**



**"Adults Only"**

**All proceeds will benefit The Kyle Hyland Foundation and its teen programs.**

The Kyle Hyland Foundation for Teen Support will host a Super 60's/70's Celebration from **6 to 10 p.m., Saturday, May 4**. The celebration will include a dessert auction, and dance party with a live band.

The celebration will take place at the Hyland Teen Center, 1135 Church Street in Benicia.

To buy a ticket, click [here](#). For more information about the foundation, click [here](#).

## 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](#).

## CalFresh Resource Fair in Vallejo

In celebration of CalFresh Awareness Month, the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano's CalFresh Outreach team will be hosting a free Community Resource Fair in Solano County, from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, May 11 at Vallejo City Park, 425 Alabama Street.**

On-site eligibility screenings and application assistance for CalFresh will be available. If you are interested in being a vendor, reach out to [CF@foodbnakccs.org](mailto:CF@foodbnakccs.org).

For more information, visit the website [here](#).

## Upon Words



Fairfield Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce invites you to an afternoon of poetry

# Upon Words

POETRY OPEN MIC

### FEATURING TWO INSPIRING POETS:



Rosa Lane

Author of four poetry collections including *Called Back* (forthcoming, Tupelo Press); *Chouteau's Chalk* (2019, UGA Poetry Prize); *Tiller North* (2016, Sixteen Rivers); *Roots and Reckonings* (chapbook). She won the 2023 Morton Marcus Memorial Poetry Prize and has appeared in the *Asheville Poetry Review*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Catamaran*, and elsewhere. [www.rosalane.com](http://www.rosalane.com)



Erin Rodoni

Author of three poetry collections: *And If the Woods Carry You* (SIR Press, 2021), *Body, in Good Light* (Sixteen Rivers Press, 2017), and *A Landscape for Loss* (NFSPS Press, 2017). She won the 2017 Montreal International Poetry Prize, and her poems have appeared in *Blackbird*, *Poetry Northwest*, and the *Fairy Tale Review*. [www.erinrodonipoet.com](http://www.erinrodonipoet.com)

Saturday, May 11, 2024 | 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Fairfield Civic Center Library  
1150 Kentucky Street, Fairfield

Questions?

Email: [fairfieldpoetlaureate@gmail.com](mailto:fairfieldpoetlaureate@gmail.com)



Fairfield Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce invites you to an afternoon of poetry called **Upon Words** with Bay Area poets Rosa Lane and Erin Rodoni.

Open Mic to follow. The event will take place from **3 to 5 p.m., Saturday, May 11**, Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky Street, Fairfield.

## 2024 Solano Student Art Showcase

The Solano County Office of Education Youth Development Department is hosting their 2024 Solano Student Art Showcase, with the goal of recognizing youth resilience during COVID by supporting all types of youth artists and to promote mental wellness in addition to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention through art.



The live event will have performances of spoken word, music, dance and theater, as well as informational booths from community partners. **It will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, May 18, Solano County Fairgrounds Drive inside McCormack Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Dr., Vallejo.**

For more information, visit the website [Solano Student Art Showcase](#).

## Butterfly Festival



**From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Sunday, May 19**, the Monarch Milkweed Project and the Vallejo People's Garden will host the

largest Butterfly Festival ever held on the West Coast. Up to 6,000 attendees are expected to attend the Mare Island event, which will take place 860 Nimitz Ave at the Coal Sheds and Mare Island Promenade.

Artisans and small businesses will sell their art, wares, and many fantastic sustainable goods. Community groups will lead pop-up workshops on a wide range of exciting topics, including hands-on free activities. Food vendors and food trucks will offer a variety of cuisines, including vegan and gluten-free options.


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

## Community Resource Fair in Suisun

The city of Suisun is hosting a Community Resource Fair on **Sunday, May 19 from 12 to 4 p.m.** at the Suisun City Waterfront and is looking for vendors to share resources and services available for individuals, families, children and seniors.


To register, fill out this [application](#). For more information, contact [ahernandez@suisun.com](mailto:ahernandez@suisun.com) or [jdawson@suisun.com](mailto:jdawson@suisun.com).

## Memorial Day




*Memorial  
Day*

Benicia Veteran's Memorial Hall  
1150 First Street, Benicia



Benicia Arsenal Historic Cemetery  
Birch Rd, Benicia



*Monday, May 27, 2024*

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

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## Events I attended this week

**Saturday, April 13,** I attended the author event held at the Benicia Library. The author was Joanna Ho and she highlighted her book *ON THE TIP OF A WAVE*. The story exposes Ai Weiwei's journey as he built an exhibit which showcases the life jackets left on the Greek Island of Lesbos. His creation was the thousands of life jackets shown at the Konzerthaus Berlin. Ms. Ho created the words to remind us to Remember Humanity. All of us want to raise our families in a safe environment, with food, and shelter.

**Sunday, April 14,** I attended the poet readings at the Benicia Library. April is National Poetry Month. The title of the event was "Our Best to You." I enjoyed listening to everyone. It takes a lot of courage to stand in front of friends and strangers to read your own words.

**Monday, April 15,** I went to Sulphur Spring Creek with the Benicia High School AP class. The Solano Resource Conservation District (SRCD) sponsors these field trips. The students are gathering data to see if our creeks are healthy. It is called Biomonitoring. Students have a science teacher come to their school and introduce the program. Each student receives a book and, in the classroom, learn about watershed and stream ecology. In the field, students collect the water and look at what animals can be seen by the naked eye. Data is collected. There is a professor in Oregon who has been keeping track of the information at the creeks that the students have been investigating over the last 10 plus years. Then I went to Lake Herman to see 5<sup>th</sup> grade class from Mary Farmar. The picture of the Barn Owls was taken at the Lake. (They are so cute)

This program is important. If we want our students to know why saving the environment is important, they must be exposed to it. This program pays for the materials, the bus, and the teachers that are in the field and visit the classroom. Thank you, Ms. Butler for letting me know when my schools are involved.



Monica with Ms. Hudson's AP Environmental Science class at Benicia High School. Photo: Solano Resource Conservation District.



Marianne Butler, Environmental Education Director with the Solano Resource Conservation District (left) and Supervisor Monica Brown. Photo: Solano Resource Conservation District.

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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](#)
-



## Newsletter photo

Barn owls in a palm tree near Lake Herman. Photo: Solano Resource Conservation District

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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.