

Supervisor Wanda Williams District 3 e-Newsletter

June 2024

Good Day Neighbor,

We have finally entered into the summer months and, for some of us, these few months will be filled with vacations, parties, BBQ's, holiday celebrations and time with friends.

June is my birthday month, and I plan to celebrate with friends, my community, my daughter Amber, and with my loving husband of thirty-two years. On June 14, 2024, I will be traveling to Los Angeles to receive the California Black Women's Collective Empowerment Institute's (CBWCEI) prestigious Trailblazer Hall of Fame Award. The CBWCEI recognizes and celebrates the achievements of Black Women throughout the State of California. The event will be held at the historic Wilshire Ebell Theater. The event Co-Chairs are Cedric "the Entertainer" and Lorna Kyles. I am very excited to be acknowledge for the work that I am doing in my community and my advocacy for everyone's best quality of life.

Happy Father's Day to all the dads and to my father, Mr. John Brooks. My father served our country and is very proud of the time he spent in the Army. I am thankful for him. He walks six miles a day, six days a week. He is an inspiration, and he loves to make me laugh.

A friendly reminder, we will not create a newsletter for the month of July for vacation time. We will resume our newsletter in August.

*Wanda Williams*

Solano County Supervisor, District 3

## The pivotal role of Black soldiers in the forgotten history of Juneteenth



Juneteenth emerged from the abolition of slavery in Texas, despite resistance even after President Abraham Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, and the end of the Civil War in April 1865. Black soldiers, comprising the majority of the volunteer US military, played a pivotal role, forming the military with 30,000-35,000 soldiers, serving across infantry, cavalry, and artillery units. They fought in many of the major battles where they suffered numerous casualties, often going into battle first to make way for white soldiers. Yet, the contributions of Black soldiers in

the Civil War and Juneteenth's history are often ignored and overshadowed. While the narrative often centers on General Granger's arrival in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation became law, historians now challenge this story and highlight the Black soldiers' crucial role in the freedom of Black people. Granger's 2,000 Union troops, which included both Black and White soldiers, met thousands of Black troops already on the Island. Historians revealed that between 5,000-10,000 Black soldiers from the [28th Indiana](#), [29th Illinois](#), and the New York [26th](#) and [31st Regiments](#) would drop anchor from June 18th to June 20<sup>th</sup> in and around Galveston Bay.

Black troops fought crucial battles to free our country, including those leading to the Civil War's end and the Confederacy's collapse. General Grant depended on a bi-racial military of Black units and all-white units to defeat General Lee's Confederate Army. The United States Civil War Memorial in Washington DC honors the 209,145 known United States Colored Troops who responded to the Union's call to arms. President Lincoln acknowledged their indispensable role, stating, "Without the military help of the black freedmen, the war against the south could not have been won."

The bravery of Black fighting units during the Civil War would help pave a strong path for other all Black units such as the 761st Tank Battalion, also known as the "Black Panthers during WWII; the 332nd Fighter Group, also known as the "Red Tails": A unit that broke down barriers for Black pilots and air crews, and the Tuskegee Airmen- the first African American military aviators in the US Armed Forces.

## Supervisor Williams leads the Board's Juneteenth recognition by honoring the Tuskegee Airmen

**The Solano Board Of Supervisors has ordered the Juneteenth flag be flown, for the first time, at the County Building for one week during the month of June.**



*Supervisor Williams recognized and presented a proclamation to the Tuskegee Airmen and noted the separation and discrimination that existed in the military and the work the members did to gain inclusion and respect. "They were the first leg of the Civil Rights movement," Clyde Jones, president of the local Lee Archer Jr. Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc., told the board.*

# Freedom Day/Juneteenth Celebrations around Solano County



FIRST ANNUAL


# SOLANO

## Juneteenth

*Unity in the Community*

**JUNE 15&16 | 11AM-6PM**

 **ALLAN WITT PARK FAIRFIELD, CA**

 **707-673-2148**

 **events@solanoblackchamber.com**



SPONSORED BY: CITY OF FAIRFIELD/ SOLANO BLACK COUNTY BLACK CHAMBER





## SPECIAL PERFORMANCES



JON B



ALEXANDER O'NEAL



CHERRELLE

**VIP TICKETS AVAILABLE \$15.00**

SPONSORED BY: SOLANO BLACK COUNTY BLACK CHAMBER





3RD ANNUAL  
**JUNETEENTH**  
**CELEBRATION**

June 15th & 16th

at the Suisun City Waterfront



**R.E.A.L.**  
Relevant-Ethical-Authentic-Legendary  
**Fairfield**



## Solano County lays out California Forever initiative ballot qualification process and timelines

SOLANO COUNTY – County officials are issuing this alert to inform the public of the ballot qualification process and timeline ahead, as set forth under state elections law, for the “REZONING OF 17,500 ACRES OF LAND IN EAST SOLANO COUNTY TO ALLOW DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW COMMUNITY” Initiative (also known as “California Forever” or “East Solano Plan”).

"This initiative to redesignate a large tract of land in eastern Solano County from agriculture to urban land uses has and will continue to generate a robust debate about the future of Solano County if it qualifies for the November ballot," said Bill Emlen,



Solano County Administrator. “The Board of Supervisors (Board) wants to ensure the community understands the process and the Board’s role in the weeks and months ahead.”

### **April 30 – June 12, 2024**

Solano County Registrar of Voters has 30 business days, not including holidays or weekends, to conduct a random sample of 3 percent of signatures submitted to see if it can be projected that there are at least 14,369 valid signatures (110 percent of the total required).

### **By June 12, 2024**

The Registrar of Voters will announce if the random sample of signatures does or does not meet the threshold to qualify the initiative to be placed on the November 2024 ballot. If it does not meet the threshold, the Registrar may take an additional 60 business days to count and verify all signatures. If it does meet the threshold, the Registrar will present it at the next regularly scheduled Solano County Board of Supervisors meeting on June 25, 2024.

### **June 25, 2024**

At the Solano County Board of Supervisors meeting, the Registrar will present the results of its initiative signature sampling count. (The agenda for this meeting will be available on June 21, 2024 [here](#)). At this meeting, the Board would have three options: 1) adopt the initiative (i.e., change the County’s land use as outlined in the initiative), 2) place the initiative on the November ballot, or 3) order a report assessing impacts of the initiative before placing it on the ballot. Should the Board order the report, that report would need to be presented to the Board within 30 days.

### **July 23, 2024**

At the Board meeting, the impact report would be presented. Following consideration of the report, the Board may adopt the initiative or place the initiative on the November ballot. (The agenda for this meeting will be available on July 19, 2024 [here](#)).

## Solano County Mobile Crisis Team now serves the entire County 24/7/365

The Solano County Department of Health and Social Services, Behavioral Health division, in partnership with Pacific Clinics, California's leading provider of community-based mental health and substance use services, announce that Solano Mobile Crisis can now be accessed by calling 707-806-0866 and is now available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year countywide.



Mobile Crisis team members are certified first responders trained to prevent or de-escalate crisis situations and provide support in the community to an individual needing to be placed on an involuntary 72-hour psychiatric hold, otherwise known as a 5150.

“Ensuring access to free Mobile Crisis services has been a number one priority for our County,” says Emery Cowan, Chief Deputy Behavioral Health (Pictured above). “Our hope is that every person in Solano knows how to find help, is not afraid to reach out, and can get the support they need to move beyond their crisis and lead happy and productive lives.”

The program serves all of Solano County's participating jurisdictions, including Benicia, Dixon, Vallejo, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville, Travis Air Force Base (TAFB) and unincorporated Solano County areas — more than 850 square miles.

Solano County Behavioral Health assists over 6,000 children, youth, and adults annually who experience a psychiatric crisis, addiction, or who have significant mental and emotional disabilities.

For more information visit <https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/bh> or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

## Why the United States Farm Bill holds significant importance for Counties



The United States Farm Bill holds significant importance for counties with its broad-reaching impact on agriculture, rural development, nutrition assistance, and conservation efforts. Here are some key reasons why the Farm Bill matters to counties:

**Agricultural Support:** The Farm Bill provides crucial support to farmers, including subsidies, crop insurance, and risk management programs. This assistance helps stabilize farm incomes, ensuring the viability of agricultural operations within counties.

**Rural Development:** The Farm Bill allocates funding for rural development initiatives, such as infrastructure improvements, business development, and access to capital for rural businesses. These investments contribute to economic growth and job creation in rural counties.

**Nutrition Programs:** A significant portion of the Farm Bill's funding is allocated to nutrition assistance programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps). These programs help low-income persons and families access nutritious food, benefiting communities across counties.

**Conservation Efforts:** The Farm Bill includes provisions for conservation programs aimed at preserving natural resources, protecting wildlife habitats, and promoting sustainable agriculture practices. These efforts are essential for maintaining environmental quality and preserving the natural beauty of rural counties.

**Disaster Assistance:** The Farm Bill often includes provisions for disaster assistance programs to help farmers recover from natural disasters, such as floods and droughts. These programs provide critical support to agricultural producers facing unexpected losses, helping them rebuild and continue operating.

**Research and Innovation:** The Farm Bill supports agricultural research and innovation, funding programs aimed at improving crop yields, developing new technologies, and addressing emerging challenges in agriculture. These investments drive productivity growth and innovation within county agricultural sectors.

Overall, the Farm Bill plays a central role in shaping the economic, social, and environmental landscape of rural counties across the United States, making it a crucial piece of legislation for county governments and residents alike.

The House and Senate Agriculture Committees released proposals for the [2024 Farm Bill](#), including important provisions for counties.



Scan the QR code to see a "Primer for Counties: 2024 Farm Bill Reauthorization" published by the National Association of Counties (NACo).

Solano County Fair celebrates 75 years of culture, entertainment, rides and fun for the entire family



*The Solano County Fair is Thursday – Sunday, June 13 – 16, 2024, at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo.*



Fun, Fun - Help the Solano County Fair celebrate its diamond jubilee June 13th-16th at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo.

Kick off the County Fair with a down-home celebration at **Family Ag Day** on the opening day of the Fair. This is a free event with your fair ticket purchase, and is your opportunity to get hands-on with agriculture, meet the local farmers who grow our food and learn about the amazing animals they raise. From live demonstrations to interactive

exhibits, Family Ag Day is a fun-filled adventure for the whole family, sparking a love for agriculture and where our food comes from. Don't miss this exciting day – it's the perfect way to grow closer to your community and celebrate the bounty of Solano County!

### **Solano County Fair**

Thursday – Sunday, June 13 – 16, 2024

Admission: \$6-12 | Carnival: \$30+ | Parking \$5-15

Solano County Fairgrounds  
900 Fairgrounds Dr, Vallejo

For advanced ticket discounts & complete fair schedule, visit [SCFair.org/2024-solano-county-fair](https://SCFair.org/2024-solano-county-fair).



## **FUN FACTS: Can you guess the answer?**

- What event occurred in Fairfield in 1933 and became the forerunner to the annual Solano County Fair in Vallejo? (See end of newsletter for answer)



## Information you can use:

### **Solano County Launches New Job Applicant System**

Solano County has moved their job applicant system to NeoGOV. Applicants will no longer be able to apply to County positions via JobAps or have login access. All

applicants must apply via <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/solanocounty>. Check out [NeoGOV](#) for more information and apply today!

### **Solano County's Fresh Start: Comprehensive Criminal Record Relief Program**

A criminal record can make finding employment, obtaining housing, enrolling in and funding an education, and securing other opportunities very difficult. The Solano County Public Defender's Fresh Start Program can help you reduce felony convictions to misdemeanors to dismissing/expunging your criminal record to getting Certificates of Rehabilitation. For more information, please contact the Public Defender to start the process at (707)-784-6700 or [freshstart@solanocounty.com](mailto:freshstart@solanocounty.com) with any questions.

### **Translation Services for Businesses and Non-profits in Solano County**

Need help with translation for your business or non-profit organization? The Solano-Napa Small Business Development Corporation offers no-charge professional translation services, thanks to Solano County ARPA funding. Translation assistance is:

- Available for any business or non-profit in Solano County
- Available for written translations or verbal interpretations
- For business purposes (not personal)

To request translation assistance, click [here](#) or call (707) 646-1071.

### **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. 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.

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).

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### **Answer to this month's Fun Fact:**

“The Bells of Solano County Exposition,” was the forerunner to what is now known as the Solano County Fair. It took place in Fairfield in late May 1930. The initial idea

for this event came from Solano newspaper publisher David A. Weir. His goal was to combine his newspaper's 75th anniversary with a large, agriculture-oriented fair showcasing the county's most beautiful women. Ladies from throughout the county participated as contestants for the title of "Belle of Solano County."

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**FREE**

# FIRST TIME HOME BUYER MILITARY & VETERANS SEMINAR



**Saturday**  
**1:00PM-3:00PM**  
**July 13, 2024**



**Monica Winn/Win**

REALTOR®/REALIST  
BRE# 01971960



- ✓ The Home Buying Process
- ✓ How to Get Qualified
- ✓ Financing Options
- ✓ Prepare for Home Ownership
- ✓ Local Market Stats
- ✓ What is Escrow?
- ✓ The Closing Process
- ✓ Much More...



**CALL TO RSVP**  
**707-344-4237**

**CENTURY 21 EPIC**

301 Dickson Hill Rd, Suite 2A  
Fairfield, CA 94533

For More Information, please contact me:

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