

#### SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER

July 19, 2024



## Board of Supervisors to Receive Report on Impacts of California Forever Initiative



Erin Hannigan Vice-Chair Supervisor District 1





Monica Brown

Wanda Williams Chair Pro Tem Supervisor District 3 John Vasquez Supervisor District 4 Supervisor District 5

A press release from Solano County:

At their meeting on **Tuesday**, **July 23** in the Board Chambers, located at 675 Texas Street in Fairfield, starting at **2 p.m.**, the Department of Resource Management and the County



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

Administrator's Office will present the Solano County Board of Supervisors with a report, prepared in accordance with California Elections Code section 9111, on the impacts to Solano County from 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") The report was ordered by the Board at its June 25 meeting to provide information about the fiscal, land use, infrastructure, business and employment, agriculture, and other impacts of the proposed new community. A copy of the report and meeting agenda is available <u>here</u>.

Pursuant to California Election Code section 9118, following the presentation of the report on July 23, the board must either adopt the ordinance as is or order an election.

"The County's top priority is to provide the community with objective and factual information about California Forever/East Solano Initiative so that voters can make the most informed choice in November. We hope this report inspires a constructive debate of the issues facing this community," said Bill Emlen, Solano County Administrator. "Compiling this impact analysis on the new community proposal has been a herculean effort by the County team given its size and scope - nearly doubling our current County population at buildout – and its sweeping impacts on our environment, economy, and mobility."

A brief summary of the report's findings are as follows:

**SCALE:** The proposed California Forever community is the largest development proposal by a developer for real estate development in Solano County history and, at full buildout, would be the largest community by population in the County, with a land area similar to the existing City of Vacaville.

**GENERAL PLAN ALIGNMENT:** The initiative significantly deviates from the Solano County General Plan and three decades of orderly growth. It promotes extensive residential development on agricultural lands, and diverges substantially from the County's current plan to meet its housing goals via appropriate, underutilized sites in the existing seven cities.

**FUTURE LAND USE APPROVAL:** The California Forever initiative contains language limiting the County and public's ability to have a say in future development proposals. Were the initiative to be approved, a broad range of uses (a large-scale entertainment venue, an apartment complex, a commercial center) would be subject to only "ministerial" approval without public input or environmental review.

**FISCAL IMPACTS:** The proposed California Forever project is expected to create significant fiscal deficits for both Solano County

#### **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

and the Montezuma Fire Protection District, which would grow as the project grows.

- Phase 1: estimated annual fiscal deficit of \$5.9 million for the County and \$6.5 million for the fire district
- Buildout: at full size annual deficits are projected at \$103.1 million (County) and \$88.8 million (Fire District)
- A new community facilities district (CFD) formed to offset these costs would equate to an annual CFD tax of \$1,955 per single family unit or \$977 per multi-family unit

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** The financial feasibility of the project is questionable given high projected infrastructure costs of \$6.4 billion for Phase 1 to \$49.1 billion at buildout, without identified funding sources. Ongoing maintenance of infrastructure would come at a cost to Solano County and all residents, including those outside the new community. The largest costs follow.

- Transportation Infrastructure: Phase 1 costs outside the development area are \$2.2 billion and \$1.5 billion internally, which grow to \$17.6 billion externally and \$12.2 billion internally at maximum buildout.
- Schools: Phase 1 will require six K-8 schools and two high schools, costing \$743 million. At buildout, school costs total \$5.9 billion.

**TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE:** The dramatic land use changes proposed in the Initiative could have significant impacts to the mission and operational capabilities at Travis AFB. One of the important geographic elements to the base in the adjacency and access to large expanses of open space that allows for diverse flight training approaches and operations. The new community plan would significantly change this dynamic. There is also a high probability base access and security could be directly impacted by developments within the new community. The effects of traffic build up on Hwy. 12 and other roadways serving the base could impede prompt and efficient movement for equipment and personnel on and off the installation.

**BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT:** The Initiative may result in 94,000 jobs at buildout, including construction jobs. This would significantly increase employment opportunities within the County during buildout with permanent jobs remaining after buildout. A portion of these jobs are expected to be "good paying" jobs, paying at least \$125% of average County wages. The development of a new community may prompt existing Solano County residents to relocate, resulting in a redistribution of economic activity and potentially affect existing businesses in urban areas along with the business districts in the existing seven cities.

**HOUSING NEEDS:** The initiative makes no commitment to provide low-income housing units even though Solano County must meet

state housing development targets for very low and low-income tiers.

**ENVIRONMENT AND ECOSYSTEM:** The loss of 17,500 acres of farmland includes significant ecosystem impacts, including the loss of climate change adaptation, biodiversity maintenance, water regulation, wildfire mitigation and aesthetic benefits. The initiative would remove the new community from Priority Habitat designation and the Resource Conservation Overlay which will have significant impacts on local ecosystems, biodiversity and environmental quality and will reduce 14,000 acres of grazing lands and their associated environmental benefits. There is substantial uncertainty regarding the source and quantity of water supplies that will be used to serve the new community and resulting impacts on other water users in the area.

**TRAFFIC:** Traffic congestion is expected to rise substantially under the proposed initiative. Road closures, detours and increased traffic relating to construction activities for Phase one are anticipated to last ten years. At buildout, the total increase in annual vehicle miles traveled is expected to be 2 billion for residential vehicles and 438 million for work vehicles. These roadway conditions would require extensive and costly road and bridge improvements to mitigate, including widening of Hwy 12 and the Rio Vista Bridge.

**UNKNOWN IMPACTS:** A full assessment of impacts is limited by a lack of details in the initiative, including the lack of detail on phasing, infrastructure funding, water supply assessment, or a plan for addressing traffic impacts.

Note, the impact report is not an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which is required under the California Environmental Quality Act whenever there is substantial evidence a project will have a significant impact on the environment. Because California Forever is asking voters to rezone 17,500 acres of agricultural land for urban use by ballot measure, an EIR would be required only after (and if) the initiative were to be approved by voters. The full report is available on the County's <u>website</u>.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Solano County Administrator's Office is taking steps to ensure the public has safe and easy access to attend the Board meeting and provide public comment. As part of this process, we ask the public to be mindful of the following considerations, including:

• Seating in the Board Chambers is first-come-first serve. A line will be established directly outside the 675 Texas front entry doors beginning at 1:00 p.m. In the event the Board chambers reaches capacity, overflow rooms will be available and staff and signage will direct attendees to these locations as needed.

- The Board of Supervisors meeting will be livestreamed in the overflow rooms. There is a 30-second delay in the livestream broadcast.
- Participants who wish to make a statement as part of public comment must fill out a yellow comment card at 2:00 p.m., available in the Board chambers and overflow rooms, in advance of speaking.
- Staff will collect speaker cards and the Chair of the Board, with support from staff, will call speakers in groups, and direct them to the public comment area. Please note, ADA accommodation will be made for those who need / request it during the meeting.

#### ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Please be mindful of the following considerations as part of public comment, including:

- All public comments must be specific to California Forever and will be heard only during the 2 p.m. session. Public comment cards will not be accepted on the initiative at the Board's 9 a.m. session.
- All public comments will be made after the item has been presented to the Board.
- All public comments need to be made in person. There will not be a call-in line.
- Subject to the discretion of the Board Chair, public comments may be limited to 1 minute.
- No signs, posters or noisemakers are permitted in the Board Chambers and multipurpose rooms.

#### ATTENDING IN PERSON / WATCH THE MEETING ONLINE

The Board of Supervisors meeting is hosted at the Solano County Administration Center, located at 675 Texas Street in the Board Chambers in Fairfield. In addition to the in-person meeting, the event will be livestreamed starting at 2 p.m. PST on the County's <u>website</u>. This meeting, along with all the previous Board of Supervisors' meetings, can be viewed as part of the County's video archive.

## Vallejo and Benicia responses



Prior to Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting, Solano County officials asked cities in Solano to provide comment about the California Forever project. I wanted to share the responses from Vallejo and Benicia the two main cities in my district.

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Vallejo
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<u>Benicia</u>

## Information this week Upcoming clinics with Solano Public Health's Immunization Program

Immunizations are available at several locations in Solano County. In August, Solano Public Health will provide Tdap for 10+ years and kindergarten vaccines for children ages 4 to 6 years old (DTap-IPV and MMRV) in Vacaville and Fairfield. For dates and locations, visit the <u>Immunization Program website</u>.

# Advice from professionals on protecting your home against squatters

Stories of squatters living on property unlawfully have been told around the United States.

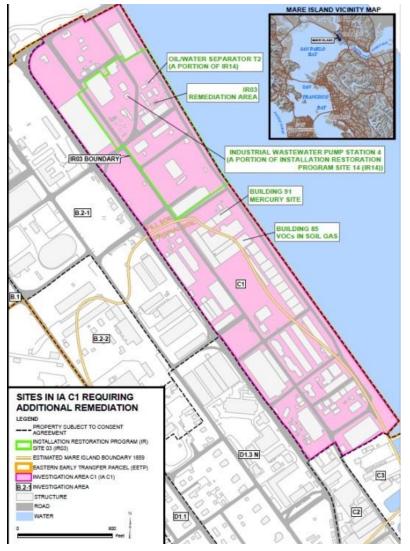
Homeowners often lose hundreds of thousands of dollars repairing damage left behind by squatters and from lengthy court battles to have them removed from a property.

Homeowners can learn from other squatting situations to protect themselves against a similar occurrence.

To continue reading, click here.

#### **Public hearings**

## **Community Update - Mare Island Investigation Area C1**



The California Department of Toxic Substances Control encourages the community to review the attached Community Update for an 83-acre portion of Mare Island in Vallejo, CA 94592 known as <u>Investigation Area C1</u>.

It announces the public comment period from July 8 – August 6, 2024 for the <u>draft Remedial Action Plan</u> and <u>CEQA Initial Study</u>.

You are invited to the next Mare Island Restoration Advisory Board meeting to learn about Investigation Area C1 and provide feedback.

Date: Thursday July 25, 2024

Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

Location: Mare Island Conference Center, 375 G Street, Vallejo, CA 94592

<u>Online:</u> Microsoft Teams link <u>https://tinyurl.com/MINSRAB-Jul24</u>, Meeting ID: 289 175 288 264, Passcode: pa7fxT

To join by phone, call (833) 240-9982, enter Conference ID 484577766#.

## Draft 2025 Transportation Improvement Program

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission invites input on the Draft 2025 Transportation Improvement Program and



the Draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the 2025 Transportation Improvement Program.

The <u>Draft 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)</u> is a funding document that helps implement the public's policy and investment priorities reflected in <u>Plan Bay Area 2050</u>, the region's long-range plan. Updated every two years, the TIP reflects the Bay Area's near-term transportation investment priorities and helps some of the most significant projects and programs become a reality. It includes projects that support all modes of travel, such as transit, highways, bridges, local streets and roads, biking, walking and freight movement.

The Draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the 2025 TIP is also available for public comment. The Conformity Analysis demonstrates that both the TIP and the plan comply with federal transportation air quality regulations.

## The public comment period for both documents will remain open through 5 p.m. on Friday, July 26, 2024.

Written comments will be accepted online at <u>mtc.ca.gov/TIP</u>, via email to <u>info@bayareametro.gov</u> (include "Draft 2025 TIP Comments" in the subject line) and by mail to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Attn: Draft 2025 TIP Comments, 375 Beale Street, Suite 800, San Francisco, CA 94105.

## Hearing on Artificial Intelligence and State Government and Business Meeting



On Thursday, July 25, the Little Hoover Commission will conduct a public hearing on artificial intelligence and state government beginning at 10 a.m.

The hearing will be conducted via Zoom and will also be accessible at 925 L Street, Suite 175, Sacramento, CA, 95814.

The Commission will hold a business meeting immediately after the hearing which will also be accessible to the public. Members of the public are encouraged to listen to the hearing by joining online or by phone.

Click the URL to join online: <u>https://bit.ly/3XVReaX</u> To join via phone, call toll-free from the U.S. by dialing (888) 788-0099. The webinar ID is 952 8090 9407. The passcode is 487928.

The commission highly recommends that members of the public access the hearing through the Zoom app. Please visit the Zoom website for <u>instructions</u> on how to download the Zoom app onto a computer or smartphone.

During the hearing, members of the public may indicate to staff that they wish to make public comment by using the "raise" hand feature in Zoom or sending an email to <u>littlehoover@lhc.ca.gov</u> with your question and the phone number from which you have joined the hearing.

Public comments will be heard at the end of the hearing and will be limited to three minutes per speaker and to a total of 30 minutes.

The hearing may be canceled without notice. If you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Little Hoover Commission at (916) 445-2125 or LittleHoover@lhc.ca.gov by Thursday, July 18.

## **Updates from around Solano County**

## **Diabetes patients sought**



Touro University California is conducting a research study to gain insights into the emotional responses and challenges faced by individuals navigating life living with type 2 diabetes.

Participation will contribute to understanding the unique journey of managing this condition.

Individuals with diagnosed T2D within the past 6-9 months who are willing to share personal experiences and perspectives. If selected, willing to share journal entries at least 2 times a week for 3 months regarding experience in living with T2D.

Compensation up to \$400.

## FSUSD to Host Informational Meeting for Prospective Board Trustee Candidates



This November, the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District (FSUSD) will have five Board trustee seats open for election in Trustee Areas: 1, 2, 3, 6, and a two-year term for Area 7. To assist prospective candidates, the Fairfield-Suisun Governance Subcommittee will host an informational meeting

## on Tuesday, July 30th, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the FSUSD Central Office, 2490 Hilborn Road, Fairfield.

The informational session, led by current Governance Subcommittee members, is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of a Governing Board Trustee. This session is crucial for those considering running for a seat and will offer insights into the critical aspects of board service.

Topics to be covered include:

Student Achievement and Local Control and Accountability Goals

Collective Governance: Acting as one body, not as seven individuals

The Brown Act: The importance of holding conversations only in public meetings

Board/Superintendent Relationship: Working as a Governance Team

Leadership: Doing your homework, attending meetings, and involvement in schools/events

School Finance: Navigating State and Federal funding

Collective Bargaining: Understanding FSUSD's four employee associations and their representatives

The session will also include a Q&A segment, allowing attendees to engage with current Board members and gain a deeper understanding of what it means to serve on the FSUSD Board.

To qualify as a candidate, individuals must meet several mandated requirements: they must be at least 18 years old, residents of the trustee area, registered voters, and not employed by FSUSD. Although elected by their respective areas, trustees work collectively to provide governance for the entire district, impacting the education of over 20,000 students and supporting more than 2,000 employees.

A map of FSUSD Trustee areas can be found on the district <u>website</u> (<u>www.fsusd.org</u>) under the <u>Governing Board</u> tab. Residents can visit <u>https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/rov/</u> and input their address to determine their trustee area or call the voter registrar's office at (707) 784-6675.

FSUSD encourages all interested individuals to attend the informational meeting on July 30th. Please contact the Superintendent's office at (707) 399-5008 to confirm your

attendance so that appropriate seating and materials can be prepared for all attendees.

#### San Francisco Bay Ferry

*▲* San Francisco Bay Ferry

On July 1, fares across the ferry system increased 3%. This fare increase was approved by the SF

Bay Ferry Board of Directors in 2023. Discounts still offer 50% discounts for youth, senior, disabled or Clipper START passengers on regular service, and Short Hop fares remain unchanged.

The new adult one-way fares as of July 1, 2024 are:

Zone 1: \$4.70 - Alameda Seaplane, Harbor Bay, Oakland & Alameda, Richmond

Zone 2: \$7.20 - South San Francisco

Zone 3: \$9.60 - Vallejo

Short Hop: \$1.00 Pier 41 Short Hop, Alameda Short Hop

More information about the updated fares including updated discounted fares can be found on the <u>fare page</u>

#### **Red Top Road update**



This week, the roadway contractor is working near the intersection of Red Top Road at Havenhill Road to extend the center median and create a new left-turn lane into the subdivision. Planned work in this area will continue through next week. The contractor is progressing to complete roadway widening improvements by August 9.

As part of the existing domestic water pumpstation abandonment process, the contractor is mobilizing equipment and crews to start installation of a new 16-inch waterline. The new water infrastructure will be in a vacant parcel and will be connected to the existing water system in Havenhill Road and in Watt Drive. This new waterline will provide service redundancy and adequate water pressure to both residential and commercial uses in the area. The contractor's schedule anticipates this underground waterline to start construction on July 15 and continue through the end of the month.

At the domestic water pumpstation this week, the control valve manufacturer was onsite testing and inspecting. Next week, the flow meter company is scheduled to conduct their equipment testing.

Stay up to date by clicking here.

## Donate Items to Humane Society of the North Bay's Pawtoberfest Live and Online Auctions



The upcoming Pawtoberfest will benefit the Humane Society of the North Bay (HSNB), now in its fourth decade of helping homeless and abandoned animals in our community

Last year, HSNB saved the lives of more than 500 dogs and cats through adoptions, working in partnership with shelter and rescue colleagues around the Bay Area, and returning lost pets to their families.

As a private nonprofit, the HSNB depends on generous people like you to continue this life-saving work.

Consider donating items, such as:

- Airline miles, a vacation rental, or timeshare
- Theatre, game, or other event tickets
- Wine or a wine-tasting experience
- Fun experiences such as a sailboat or fishing trip on your boat
- Sought-after electronics (headphones, earbuds, televisions, game consoles)
- Certificate for your professional service (taxes, hair, photography)
- Designer purses or jewelry
- Gift certificates to stores or restaurants
- Gift baskets or items we can group in a gift basket (no item is too small, we can be creative)

 You can also help by asking a business to donate an item, gift card, service, etc.

The HSNB can only accept new, unused items unless it is a collectable with appropriate certification. It is requested that all items be donated by September 1st.

If your item donation is valued at \$500 or more, or you make a monetary donation of \$500 or more, the HSNB will be glad to honor your generosity as a sponsor of Pawtoberfest.

Please request a sponsor form from <u>donate@hsnb.org</u> if you are interested in becoming a sponsor.

Your contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. We are a non-profit, 501(c)3 animal shelter. Our tax ID is 94-3041601.

You can fill out our Auction Donation Form at this link.

## NAMI de Familia a Familia Course



NAMI Solano County is hosting their first NAMI De Familia a Familia course in Solano County. This course provides knowledge and support to families in our community as they navigate the

complexities of having a loved one struggling with their mental health.

Wherever you are on this journey, whether at the beginning or years later, we believe this class can support and help you. This class will be offered virtually and completely in Spanish!

Classes begin on Friday, August 2 via Zoom and will meet every Friday from 8:30 to 11 a.m. for 8 weeks.

To register, click here.

# Community Survey for city of Vallejo Police Chief Candidate



#### Vallejo Police Chief Recruitment Community Meetings Survey

We hope you enjoyed listening and discussing with Executive Recruiters Bob Hall & Associates and City Manager, Andrew Murray about what you would like to see in Vallejo's next Police Chief.

Share your thoughts and help shape the future of our community.

Use the link or QR code to participate in the Vallejo Police Chief Recruitment feedback survey.

Your input matters!

https://cityofvallejo.co/3XM9PpZ



To access the survey, click here.

## West Regional Career Fair



## Looking for Federal Employment in the Western United States?

Join USDA Rural Development's virtual career fair **Wednesday**, July 24 at 1 p.m. Pacific & Arizona | 2 p.m. Mountain

Learn about various job openings in AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NM, OR, UT, WA, and WY. Gain insight into the hiring process and work life culture.

To register, click here.

#### **National Night Out**



The city of Fairfield Parks & Recreation Department will host its 2024 National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 6, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Allan Witt Aquatics Complex located at 1741 W. Texas Street.

National Night Out is a time for neighbors to get together and connect with each other. Come celebrate with the Parks and Recreation Department as we party at the pool!

You bring bathing suits and towels, and the city will provide hot dogs, chips, and beverages. All families are welcome at this free event!

For more information, click here.

## National Night Out in Vallejo



#### **NNO Glen Cove**

This year, the Glen Cove National Night Out will take place on **Tuesday, August 6, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Glen Cove Waterfront Park (off Whitesides Dr.).** 

Come and meet your neighbors, enjoy food, fun, entertainment, and learn how to keep our neighborhoods safer. Bring your own picnic essentials or food will be available for purchase on site.

Individual communities throughout Glen Cove may also be hosting events. Please <u>contact your local development representative</u> to find out if a block party is planned for your neighborhood.

National Night Out (NNO) is an annual community-building campaign that promotes neighborhood camaraderie and public safety. NNO seeks to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while *bringing back a true sense of community*. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Glen Cove Community Association is co-sponsoring this event. For more information, please contact Elissa Stewart at <u>eshanksstewart@yahoo.com</u>. Glen Cove advertisers and residents with a business may set up a free information table.

## Public invited to comment on environmental assessment for proposed Scotts Valley Casino and Tribal Housing Project development in Vallejo

A Solano County press release:

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is now accepting public comments on the environmental impact assessment for the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians



proposal for a Casino and Tribal Housing Project located in Vallejo.

The BIA issued an Environmental Assessment of the Scotts Valley Casino and Tribal Housing Fee-to-Trust Project on July 8 – initiating a 30-day public review period – analyzing the potential impacts that could result from the development of a gaming facility, including an eight-story casino with restaurants, bars, and a ballroom for events. In addition to a casino, the proposed project would also include the construction of 24 single-family residences, a tribal administration building, parking garage and a 45-acre biological preserve area on a 160-acre property located within and adjacent to the City of Vallejo boundary in Solano County, near the intersection of Interstate 80 and Highway 37. The casino facility would be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The public is invited to analyze the potential environmental consequences of the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians Casino and Tribal Housing Project, including any potential issues, concerns and alternatives that have not yet been raised during the BIA's review of the proposal, which includes transferring a 160-acre property into federal trust status for the benefit of the Tribe for gaming purposes.

After receiving feedback from the public on its environmental assessment, the BIA will decide whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to further analyze the effects of the proposed development or proceed on the basis of lesser environmental analysis. The federal actions necessary to implement the Proposed Project trigger the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). For this Environmental Assessment, the BIA will serve as the Lead Agency for compliance with NEPA.

#### ACCESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Visit <u>https://www.ScottsValleyCasinoEA.com</u> and click on "Environmental Assessment" at the top of the page. The Environmental Assessment, including all appendices, can be downloaded as PDF documents. An electronic version of the documents that are compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 can be provided upon request to Chad Broussard, Environmental Protection Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region, at (916) 978–6165 or by email at <u>chad.broussard@bia.gov</u>.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments on the Environmental Assessment must be mailed or hand-delivered to one of the following contacts by or before August 7, 2024, including:

#### By Postal Mail:

Mail Amy Dutschke, Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Regional Office, at 2800 Cottage Way, Room W–2820, Sacramento, CA 95825. Include your name, return address, and the caption: "EA Comments, Scotts Valley Casino and Tribal Housing Project," on the first page of written comments.

#### By Electronic Mail:

Email Chad Broussard, Environmental Protection Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region, at <u>chad.broussard@bia.gov</u>. Use "EA Comments, Scotts Valley Casino and Tribal Housing Project" as the subject of your email.

#### VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

A virtual public hearing will be held on July 23, 2024, starting at 6 p.m., PST, and will run until the last public comment is received. The public can register to attend the public hearing by clicking this <u>LINK</u> and/or visiting the <u>https://www.ScottsValleyCasinoEA.com</u> website.

#### COUNTY INVOLVEMENT

It should be noted that Solano County does not have regulatory jurisdiction or decision-making authority over whether a casino opens on land the federal government has taken into trust for gaming for a tribe.

#### Math for the Trades Apprenticeship Preparation Class

Do you know anyone interested in a career that offers a living wage, on-the-job paid training, paid health benefits, and a secure pension plan? Then applying to one of the many Construction Apprenticeship Programs in the area might be a good fit.

The minimum qualifications for most apprenticeship programs include being at least 18 years old, a high school diploma, reliable transportation, and passing a basic math test.

For some people, the inability to pass the math test is a stumbling block in gaining access to these apprenticeship programs. The Vallejo Adult School, in partnership with CTWI, The Construction Trades Workforce Initiative, offers a unique math class designed specifically to help those interested in passing an Apprenticeship Entrance exam.

In a low stress environment, the class helps students master fractions, decimals, percentages, basic algebra, and basic geometry problems that they will encounter on the Apprenticeship Entrance exams.

This free class is offered Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9:15 p.m., at the Vallejo Adult School, 436 Del Sur St, Vallejo, 707-556-8850.

Online registration is open at <u>https://www.vcusd.org/vrec</u>. Fall classes begin August 19.

The Construction Trades Test Prep class prepares students for the following trades:

Electrical workers

Elevator Constructors

Heat and Frost Insulators

Ironworkers, Laborers

**Operating Engineers** 

Painters

Plumbers

Pipefitters

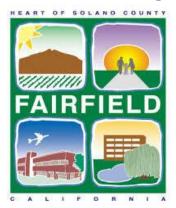
Sheet Metal Workers

Sprinkler Fitters

Stationary Engineers

Teamsters

#### Fairfield seeking new Poet Laureate



The city of Fairfield is accepting applications for a poet laureate. Fairfield's Poet Laureate Program is a person selected to serve as a public advocate for the appreciation and advancement of the literary arts, particularly poetry in the city of Fairfield. The term is 2024 through to 2026.

The Poet Laureate is called upon to create and read poetry at civic events such as public ceremonies and dedications. This person will act as a

resource on the topic of poetry should the city or Fairfield City Council need that expertise. This person will also have the opportunity to conduct poetry workshops or staged readings.

#### You may download the application for Poet Laureate here.

The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m., Thursday, August 1, 2024.

Download the Planning Commission Application or Poet Laureate Application by clicking on the links above or request one by mail or email by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (707) 428-7402, or cityclerk@fairfield.ca.gov.

Completed applications may be submitted via mail or email.

Mail or In-person: City Clerk's Office, 1000 Webster Street, 4th Floor, Fairfield, CA 94533

# Solano County Library has new mobile app

Solano County Library has a new mobile app to make it even easier to find your next read, see upcoming events and programs, and reserve a group study room.



Download the app for free by searching "Solano County Library" on the App Store and Google Play. Once downloaded, the app offers user-friendly navigation on the following features:

Explore the Online Catalog: Search the catalog, check availability, and reserve titles in real-time.

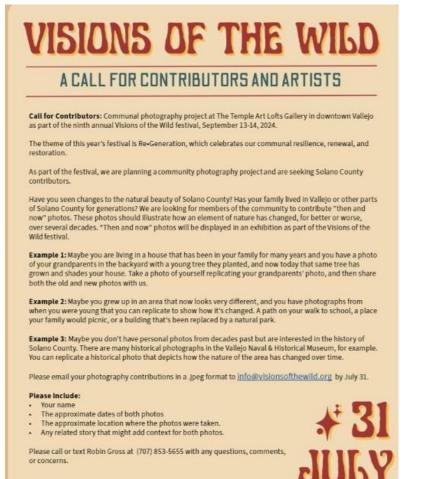
24/7 Digital Library Features: If you're looking for more library resources, our 24/7 Digital Library offers more titles on the Libby, by OverDrive and hoopla apps, and links to our complete Digital Library on our website.

Plan Your Events Schedule: Browse upcoming events by Age Group, Event Type, and Date Range. For events requiring registration, you can easily register on the app; even better, it will automatically populate your contact information. Less typing!

Reserve a Room: Say you're out and about and need a quiet space to study. Now you can book a group study room on the go. As long as there's space available at your library, you can be in a study room in minutes.

Scannable Library Card: You forgot your library card at home and are ready to check out? No problem! Pull up the app and click "My Card" for a scannable library card. For iPhone users: Add your library card to Apple Wallet with just one click.

## Visions of the Wild



#### July calendar for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall

The July calendar of events for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall:

DEADLINE DATE

July 19: Hamburgers by VFW AUX 26 American Legion cooking hamburgers

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

## Upcoming events in Solano County Vallejo Reptile and Oddities Expo



The Vallejo Reptile and Oddity Expo returns this summer at the Solano County Fairgrounds.

The expo will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, July 20 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, July 21, at the Solano County Fairgrounds, 900 Fairgrounds Drive in the city of Vallejo.

This is the first and only expo to bring you the best vendors in the reptile and oddity community with prices that fit any budget. Professional breeders will be in attendance to offer a large selection of snakes, lizards, tortoises, amphibians, isopods, scorpions, tarantulas, and more for you to purchase at the expo.

You can buy all the supplies you need to set up any cage, including live plants, bowls, logs, hides, tanks, and other habitat essentials.

Also, in attendance will be vendors who will bringing you all kinds of handmade items such as homemade chocolate, horror-themed bath bombs and soaps, unique displays, amazing taxidermy, and many more unique and one-of-a-kind items for purchase.

For more information, and/or to purchase tickets, click here

## Public Safety event at Rolling Hills Elementary



The public is invited to the "First Annual Fire & Life Safety Event" on Saturday, July 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Rolling Hills Elementary School, 2025 Fieldcrest Avenue in the amphitheater, in the city of Fairfield.

The event is hosted by Vice-Mayor Pam Bertani and Fairfield Fire Marshal Steven Conti.

Topics of discussion will include: wildfire/defensible space, earthquake preparedness, evacuation procedures (Know Your Zone), how to protect life and property, residential sprinkler systems, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and summertime safety tips.

For more information, email <u>sconti@fairfield.ca.gov</u>.

# 3rd Annual "Country Night at Rush Ranch"

★ JOIN SOLANO LAND TRUST FOR OUR ★





Join the Solano Land Trust for a concert in the park at its 3rd Annual "Country Night at Rush Ranch" which will take place from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m., Saturday, July 20.

#### Local Entertainment by:

- Opening Band MYRIAH MONET AND THE LITTLE FRIDAYS
- and Headliner LOCKED-N-LOADED

There will be a silent auction (including a signed Guitar by LOCKED-N-LOADED) along with food trucks by Buckhorn Grill and Di Filippo Wood Fired Pizza

#### Local Artisan Vendors:

- Brazelton Farms
- OK Corral
- Rush Ranch Outfitters Shop
- · Laura Ann Designs Hand-made Jewelry

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for the evening or donate a raffle item, please reach out to <u>Laura@solanolandtrust.org</u>

**Day of Event:** Please make sure you dress appropriately for the weather. The event will be under the eucalyptus trees there will be

shade and sunshine. Bring your own chair, blanket, sunscreen, etc. Entrance will open at 3 p.m.

#### **Ticket Details:**

\*Ticket Details: Ticket sales end 24 hours prior to the event. \*Tickets are transferable and nonrefundable

**Beverage Details:** Wine & Beer will be available for purchase, no outside alcohol is allowed \*No coolers allowed.

To purchase tickers, click here.

## Community invited to groundbreaking at Allan Witt Park



The community is invited to attend the Allan Witt Community Park All Inclusive Playground Project Groundbreaking Ceremony on **Monday**, July 22 at 9 a.m. at 1741 W. Texas Street.

The ceremony marks a significant milestone in the park's renovation and advances the city of Fairfield's efforts to create significant change to and activate the park in a positive way.

The project is approximately three acres and is east of the aquatics center and south of the dog park. Proposed improvements include the installation of drainage, water, sewer, and electrical utilities, concrete pathways, asphalt roads and parking lots, picnic areas, shade shelters, a gateway entry arch, play equipment, decomposed granite paving, ramps, a prefabricated restroom building, retaining walls, fencing, landscaping, and irrigation.

Construction will kick off in late July and will continue through summer 2025. Working days will be Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Once construction has commenced, the construction area will be delineated with construction fencing prohibiting public access for the duration of the project. Construction hours and days will be restricted during special events at the park

For more information about the demolition work, visit <u>www.fairfield.ca.gov/allanwitt</u>, or contract Caroline Vedder,

Senior Civil Engineer, at <u>cvedder@fairfield.ca.gov</u> or (707) 428-7485.

#### **Taste of Downtown**



Downtown Fairfield is set to sizzle with culinary delight as the highly anticipated Taste of Downtown event returns on Thursday, July 25. Presented by the city of Fairfield, this gastronomic celebration promises an unforgettable evening of gourmet indulgence, community spirit, and urban charm.

Attendees will embark on a delectable journey

through the Heart of Downtown Fairfield, where they will sample dishes from downtown restaurants, bars, and cafes. From innovative small plates to artisanal tastings, the Taste of Downtown showcases the diverse and vibrant culinary scene that Fairfield has to offer.

Whether you're a seasoned foodie or simply looking for a fun night out, this event promises something for everyone! Come out and enjoy great food with your friends, neighbors, and the downtown community at **The Taste of Downtown on July 25 from 4 to 8 p.m. in Downtown Fairfield.** 

For more information, including purchasing tickets, click here.

## **Neon Night Swim Teen Event**



The city of Fairfield Parks & Recreation Department has partnered with the Fairfield Community Services Foundation for the inaugural "Neon Night Swim" teen event on from 6 to 9 p.m., Friday, July 26 at the Allan Witt Aquatic Complex located at 1741 W. Texas Street.

The Aquatic Complex will transform into a neon theme party for local teens 13-19 years of age. A live DJ, food trucks, neon swag, jumbo games, and photo booth are just a few of the planned activities.

This event promises an unforgettable evening of music, fun, and neon vibes! The cost is \$15 per participant and pre-registration is required by July 19.

This is a 'lock in' event so don't miss out on the chance to get your glow on to the beat of a live DJ!

For more information and to register, click here.

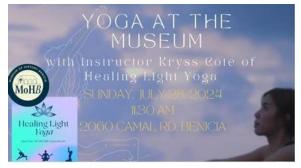




The popular summer event is back with a splash! Benicia celebrates its picturesque waterfront locale with two days of live music, microbrew tastings, arts & crafts marketplace, delectable gourmet foods, and kids' activity area.

The festival will take place 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday July 27 and Sunday, July 28.

#### Yoga at the museum



Yoga at the Museum continues this month with instructor Kryss Cote of Healing Light Yoga. Kryss is a Reiki Master/Teacher and 200hr Yoga Instructor. She has been leading individuals to deepen their connection with themselves for over 15 years.

#### The event will take place on Sunday, July 28 at 11:30 a.m.

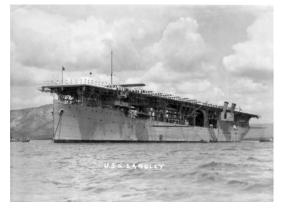
Reiki healing and yoga alignment are fundamental in connecting our mind, body, and spirit to bring about deep-rooted healing.

Tickets are \$25.00 each and includes admission into the Museum of History Benicia, which is located at 2060 Camel Road. To purchase tickets, click <u>here</u>.

For more information or to schedule classes with Kryss outside of this event, call or text (707) 225-2199 or go to <a href="mailto:krysscote@gmail.com">krysscote@gmail.com</a> for more information.

For more information on this event or any events at the Museum please contact the MoHB Office at (707) 745-5435 or email <u>info@mohbenicia.org</u>

## **Speakers Series: USS Langley**



The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation will host Dr. David Winkler, renowned naval historian and retired Commander of the U.S. Navy, for a captivating discussion on his latest book, "America's First Aircraft Carrier: USS Langley," published by the Naval Institute Press.

## The event will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 28, at St. Peter's Chapel, 1181 Walnut Avenue on Mare Island.

Dr. David Winkler brings a wealth of knowledge from his extensive career as a naval historian. With over 25 years as the staff historian at the Naval Historical Foundation and roles with the National Maritime Historical Society and Naval War College, his contributions to naval history are profound. Dr. Winkler's academic background includes a Ph.D. in history from American University and numerous publications, including "Cold War at Sea" and "Amirs, Admirals, and Desert Sailors."

Tickets are limited! Purchase your tickets today.

- Advanced Tickets: \$15
- MIHPF members receive a \$5 discount
- Tickets at the door: \$20

To purchase tickets, click here.

#### Vallejo Career Fair



## Art of Community art exhibit



The Artiszen gallery is collaborating with Mare Island Art Studios (MIAS) to present the Art of Community Art Exhibit!

This exhibition celebrates the diverse artistic talents within the Vallejo community and will unfold over three consecutive weekends, each offering its own unique flavor. Embracing the old school Artiszen 'Art of Community' style, they aim to bring the community together and celebrate that magical "Vallejo Art Renaissance" that began 10 years ago, while looking forward to a future filled with even more community art!

This month-long exhibit will showcase the incredible talents of local artists and celebrate our vibrant community. Here's what you can expect:

#### **Dates of Show/Open Gallery Times**

Weekends Aug 10- Sep 1, 2024

#### Saturdays 12 to 5 p.m. and Sundays 12 to 4 p.m.

August 10: Opening Artist's Reception, featuring both familiar artists from Artiszen's past shows and exciting new talents as well as refreshments

August 17: Fashion Market and Upcycle Fashion Show showcasing local talent and sustainable fashions on the runway; vendors offering fun vintage/steampunk/homemade clothes, accessories, and jewelry; as well as delicious food, refreshing drinks, and a selection of beer and wine

August 24: Celebration Day, an extravaganza of live music, delectable food, and crafted cocktails.

In addition, a month-long community art project featuring a "CommuniTree" will run concurrently, inviting community members to decorate and inscribe messages on it. The goal is to transform this into a permanent and dynamic outdoor installation at the Mare Island Art Studios.

#### **Compost giveaway**



Save the date, there will be a free compost giveaway on Saturday, August 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Alvarez Ninth Street Park in the city of Benicia.

Bring your own

containers.

- No bags please.
- For Benicia Residents only and by appointment to reduce waiting time.

To sign up, click here.

## **33rd Annual Tomato & Vine Festival**



Join the community at the 33rd Annual Tomato & Vine Festival in downtown Fairfield from **11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, August 17 and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, August 18.** 

A variety of tomatoes to sample and buy, live music and performances, beer and wine gardens, kid's activities, a car show, and more!

This year's festival will bring back tomato alley, a tomato eating contest, two beer and wine gardens, two stages, ten bands, a car show, and so much more! Premiering this year is a "Salsa & Salsa" class and canning demonstration.

#### Want to be a vendor?

Contact Juan Segura at (707) 428-7584 or jsegura@fairfield.ca.gov.

The vendor deadline is July 22 at 5 p.m.

#### Trash mob



The next city of Fairfield Trash Mob is scheduled on **Saturday**, **August 24**, from 9 to 11 a.m., across from AM/PM at 105 Lopes Road.

Contact Karen Rees at krees@fairfield.ca.gov or call (707) 428-7767 to sign up. Students can earn community

service hours for school!

#### Mare Island Founders Day 2024



Step back in time and join the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation for a blast from the past! Celebrate 170 years of Mare Island's history at the Founders Day extravaganza.

**On Sunday, September 15, from 1 to 4 p.m.**, immerse yourself in family fun, live music, silent auctions, and more. Entry is free, with paid activities for all ages. Don't miss this nostalgic celebration! Remember to bring your own chair for a comfortable day of festivities!

The festival will take place at the Admiral's Mansion, 1065 Walnut Avenue on Mare Island.

For more information, click here.

#### **Events I attended this week**

Friday, July 19, I spent the morning listening to a lecture given at St. Peter's Chapel, Mare Island, on the history of Port Chicago and

what was happening in the Pacific after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The presentation was excellent.

This weekend, July 18-21, is about Port Chicago. Visit the website <u>PortChicagoWeekend.org</u> for other activities and learn the local history.

I am very happy the Port Chicago <u>sailors were exonerated</u>. This happened Wednesday July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 exactly, 80 years after the explosion.

#### 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 <u>HERE</u> to access the website and follow on Facebook <u>@SolanoCountyJobs</u>. 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**

The Training Ship Golden Bear docked outside of 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.