

Supervisor Wanda Williams District 3 e-Newsletter 2024

August

Dear Neighbor,

As summer vacations come to an end, parents are busy preparing their children to return to school or start for the first time this fall. To help ease this transition, Bethel Church and the City of Fairfield Foundation are hosting a backpack giveaway on Saturday, August 3rd, from 10 a.m. to noon at 600 East Tabor Avenue, Fairfield, CA.

In other news, last week, California Forever withdrew the Eastern Solano Plan Initiative from the November ballot. They informed our Board of Supervisors Chair of their decision in advance. Consequently, we decided to cancel our scheduled afternoon meeting, which would have discussed the potential impacts of the initiative if it had passed.

Over the next two years, California Forever—our largest landowner—will have the opportunity to follow the standard development process. This includes contacting our Resource Management Department for a pre-application, preparing a feasibility plan, conducting an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), adhering to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, and demonstrating a sustainable water resource. Had the initiative passed, Phase One of the plan would have cost the county \$5.9 million and the Montezuma Fire Protection District \$6 million. The overall build-out would have created a \$103 million deficit for the county and an additional \$88 million deficit for the fire district, according to impact reports from independent consultants. The high infrastructure costs and lack of a detailed funding plan were major concerns, as it was unclear who would be responsible for these expenses.

The 17,500 acres of land in Eastern Solano are currently zoned for agriculture. The proposed development does not align with Solano County's general plan, which focuses on preserving agricultural lands, promoting city-centered growth, and protecting endangered habitats. Additionally, traffic issues were a major concern. As a resident of Suisun City, I know firsthand how stressful it can be to drive on our two-lane highways. Unfortunately, the initiative did not include a traffic mitigation plan, leaving unanswered questions about who would cover the costs of road improvements or expansions.

Travis Air Force Base, a critical asset in District Three and a major economic engine for the county, also stands to be affected. The Base, which is a vital gateway to the Pacific, is essential for receiving and shipping military supplies. The development as proposed could interfere with the base's operations, including its tactical maneuvers, as noted by the Airport Land Use Commission. The initiative did not address concerns about encroachment, security, traffic impacts on base operations, training interference, or airspace management.

I did not support the initiative as it was proposed due to its potential negative impacts on the county, surrounding cities, Travis Air Force Base, agricultural lands, and farmers who wish to retain their land. When the press covered the story, our county counsel advised us to avoid publicly expressing opinions on the project, as we have a quasi-judicial role and will eventually vote on it. This advice limited my ability to explain my concerns at the time, but now that the initiative has been withdrawn, I can share my reasons for opposing it. Over the next two years, my expectations are that California Forever will provide the county more clarity on the plans, costs, and funding for this project before it is put before voters in 2026.

In Service,

Wanda Williams

Solano County Supervisor, District 3

"Putting people first"

IN THIS E-NEWSLETTER EDITION

- Child Support Awareness Month
- Unincorporated Community Updates
- Spotlight on Homeowner's Insurance
- Welcome to Solano Community College's new Superintendent-President
- Heat Ready CA

- Grant Opportunity
- Tomato and Vine Festival
- Free Green Waste Disposal Event
- Fun Facts: Can you guess the answer?
- National Night Out Activities
- Nominate Your 2024 Workforce Hero
- Legislative Update



Pictured, CA State Treasure Fioa Ma congratulates her friend, Supervisor Williams, at her Birthday Party at Village 360

Solano County celebrates August as Child Support Awareness Month

County celebrates Child Support Awareness Month; distributes free backpacks to students, professional clothing to parents entering/re-entering workforce During the month of August, the Solano County Department of Child Support Services (DCSS), in recognition of Child Support Awareness Month, will coordinate with the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE), to donate 125 back-to-school ready backpacks for children. Additionally, DCSS, in partnership with the Solano County Family Justice Center (SFJC), will work together to distribute back-to-work professional clothing for parents entering or re-entering the workforce.

The backpacks are intended to help support children and their families as they return to school this fall. Each backpack will come with several essential school supplies, including crayons, rulers, pencils, erasers, spiral notebooks, scissors, and glue sticks. Providing the essentials needed to start the school year off on the right foot is a shared goal between the County DCSS, SCOE and the SFJC.

GETTING A FREE BACKPACK

SCOE Foster and Homeless Youth Services will work with school districts and partner agencies to directly distribute backpacks and school supplies to children in foster care, and to children who are experiencing homelessness. SFJC will provide backpacks to customers beginning August 7, 2024, at 604 Empire Street in Fairfield between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday – Friday, while supplies lasts. One backpack per child will be provided. There are a variety of colors of backpacks to choose from.

BACK TO WORK CLOTHING DRIVE

DCSS, in coordination with the SFJC, will be participating in a back-to-work professional clothing drive to assist parents entering or re-entering the workforce. Donations of gently used business casual and business professional clothing can be dropped off at the Department of Child Support Services, 675 Texas St, STE 5700 in Fairfield. We recognize that it can be expensive and overwhelming when preparing to enter or reenter the workforce, so we are hoping to help ease some of that burden for individuals.

ABOUT CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH

Solano County DCSS joins all of California's 58 counties and the nation in recognition of August 2024 as Child Support Awareness Month. This year's theme is Shelter, Safety and Solutions. During Child Support Awareness Month, it is important to remember that every family, in all their diverse shapes and sizes, can access resources to provide shelter and safety to their kids. The Solano DCSS is here to provide the solutions and support to help make that happen.

INTERESTED IN DONATING / GETTING INVOLVED

If you are interested in donating to either initiative, contact Tara Knobbe, Solano County Child Support Specialist, Supervising, at (707) 784-3788 and/or <u>TLKnobbe@SolanoCounty.com</u>.

ACCESSING SERVICES / QUESTIONS

You can also feel free to visit the Solano County DCSS website for information at <u>https://www.SolanoCounty.com/Depts/DCSS</u> for more information and for clients direct any questions to <u>ChildSupport@SolanoCounty.com</u>, text (707) 241-4201 and by phone at (866) 901-3212.

DID YOU KNOW?



Solano County DCSS ioins 47 California local child support agencies nation in and the recognition of August 2023 as Child Support Awareness Month. Child Support plays a critical role in helping secure income to help strengthen individuals and families by providing economic

stability and opportunities for families to enhance their child or children's future. Solano County DCSS is dedicated to assisting parents with services available to dads, moms and legal guardians, designed to be neutral, helpful and fair.

Governor Gavin Newsom issues a statement that providing all of California's children with a healthy start is one of the best investments our state can make. Child Support Awareness Month underscores the critical importance of supporting families and connecting them with the vital resources they need to help their children grow and

thrive. Read Governor Newsom's full statement here.

Spotlight on Homeowner's Insurance

Several homeowners in District 3 have contacted my office about rising insurance rates and being dropped by their insurers. Homeowners who are dropped by their insurance carriers are forced to purchase insurance through California's FAIR Plan. The FAIR Plan is the State's insurer of last resort. I immediately contacted Congressman John Garamendi for direction since he served as California's first insurance commissioner from 1991 to 1995, and again from 2003 to 2006. Rep. Garamendi advised that I contact State Senator Bill Dodd to request that Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara host a townhall in Solano County. This week, I met with State Senator Dodd's office. Senator

Dodd and I are in the process of planning a townhall with Commissioner Lara. Below is an article about Commissioner Lara's plan.

California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara Says, Reforming the FAIR Plan is a Crucial Step in Strategy to Stabilize California's Insurance Market

On July 26, 2024, Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara announced a breakthrough agreement to modernize the California FAIR Plan Association (FAIR Plan), the state's "insurer of last resort," as part of his ongoing efforts to stabilize the California insurance market and address the insurance crisis. The move is part of his <u>Sustainable Insurance Strategy</u>, the largest insurance reform since voters passed Proposition 103 in 1988.

"Modernizing the FAIR Plan is a crucial step in our strategy to stabilize California's insurance market," **said Commissioner Lara.** "It's critical for Californians to understand that a growing FAIR Plan contributes to our insurance crisis. By strengthening the FAIR Plan while providing financial stability and solvency protections, we are creating long-term security for consumers, homeowners, and businesses across the state that is long overdue."

While the FAIR Plan is a vital safety net, its expansion creates a negative feedback loop. When the FAIR Plan takes on more customers, it causes traditional insurance companies to withdraw from certain areas, further increasing dependence on the FAIR Plan. Some have called the growing FAIR Plan a "hidden crisis" because, partially due to fear of possible major assessments by the FAIR Plan, several insurance companies are further withdrawing from the California market by pausing writing new policies or reducing their market share in at-risk areas. This cycle can ultimately weaken the FAIR Plan's financial stability and limit consumer choice.

Commissioner Lara's unprecedented agreement with the FAIR Plan today is targeted at homeowners and condo associations that need expanded coverage, as well as farms, builders, and businesses with multiple buildings in the same location. This will help "break the cycle" by strengthening the FAIR Plan as he pursues other reforms to safeguard the integrity of the insurance market while holding true to the spirit and intent of Prop. 103.

Specifically, the FAIR Plan has agreed in a binding legal stipulation to issue a new Plan of Operation within 30 days that will implement Commissioner Lara's plan to offer homeowners, consumers, and business owners:

- Expanded Coverage: Establishing a new "high-value" commercial coverage option with limits up to \$20 million per building, along with past increases for residential policies.
- Financial Stability: Creating a sound financial formula to protect policyholders in extreme loss scenarios.
- Improved Transparency: Requiring increased public reporting on FAIR Plan activity and customer service metrics.

Continue reading link to article here

Supervisor Williams Welcomes New Solano Community College President



Dr. Kellie Sims Butler started as Superintendent-President for Solano Community College on July 1st. Dr. Butler replaced Dr. Celia Esposito-Noy who retired at the end of the school year.

"The Solano Community College Board of Trustees' decision to hire Dr. Kellie Butler as President-Superintendent of the college is a great step in the right direction," -- Supervisor Wanda Williams.

Dr. Butler has nearly 25 years of experience in higher education. She has served in the classroom, as a classified professional and as an administrator. Dr. Butler was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Penn State, Executive Director of the Civic Engagement Center and Undergraduate Research and Fellowships at Rice University, Assistant Dean of the Graduate Division at UC Davis, and Dean of Student Services at Folsom Lake College. Currently, she serves as Vice President for Student Services at Folsom Lake College. Dr. Butler holds both a Ph.D. and Master's in Political Science from Rice University in Houston, TX, and a Bachelor's (Magna Cum Laude) in Political Science from Texas A&M University in College Station, TX.

Denis Honeychurch, J.D., President of the Solano Community College Governing Board stated, "The Board has chosen a uniquely qualified candidate for the superintendent-president position. Dr. Kellie Butler has the skills and vision to continue the success the college has enjoyed under Dr. Esposito-Noy." Dr. Butler stated, "I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for this opportunity and deeply honored to serve as the next Superintendent-President of Solano Community College. With a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and academic excellence, I am eager to lead the college's efforts ensuring that every student has the opportunity to achieve their dreams and reach their fullest potential. Together with Solano's exceptional administrators, faculty, classified professionals and students, I am excited to contribute to the growth and prosperity of the surrounding communities in Solano County."

Statement from Supervisor Williams: "The Solano Community College Board of Trustees' decision to hire Dr. Kellie Butler as President-Superintendent of the college is a step in the right direction. Dr. Celia Esposito-Noy passed the mantle to Dr. Butler, and I believe under her leadership she will expand and elevate Solano Community College's educational and vocational programs in our region and beyond. I am looking forward to partnering with Dr. Butler and supporting my junior college alma mater."

HEAT READY CA Month of Action | July 15 - August 16



Extreme Heat Assets by Messaging

A suite of extreme heat outreach materials has been created by OCPSC. When posting to social media, use the hashtag **#HeatReadyCA**.



More Resources



For more information on extreme heat preparedness, visit <u>CalOES</u>, <u>Ready.gov</u> and <u>Listos California</u>. To find a cooling center near you, visit the <u>County Cooling Centers and Resources</u> provided by CalOES.



ocpsc.ca.gov

Page 3





FREE RESIDENTAL GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL EVENT For residents in unincorporated solano county

DATES



Materials that will NOT be accepted: Anything over 3 inches in diameter, dirt, rock, palm fronds, oleanders, root balls, large tree trunks/stumps

Dispose of all your landscape trimmings, including branches, grass, leaves, vines, plants, weeds, small quantities of fruit attached to branches

LOCATIONS

0

Vacaville Fire Protection District, Station 67 4135 Cantelow Rd, Vacaville, CA 95688

Falls Elementary School 1634 Rockville Rd, Fairfield, CA 94534 Montezuma Fire Protection District, Station 52 2151 Collinsville Rd, Birds Landing, CA 94585 Suisun Fire Protection District, Station 32 4965 Clayton Rd, Fairfield, CA 94534 Recology Vallejo (for East Vallejo FPD) 2021 Broadway, Vallejo, CA 94589

QUESTIONS?

EMAIL Wildfire@SolanoCounty.com





FUN FACTS: Can you guess the answer?

The U.S. had not won an Olympic medal in this men's team sport since 2008 and finally won one this year in Paris. Can you name the sport and the medal won?

(See end of newsletter for answer)

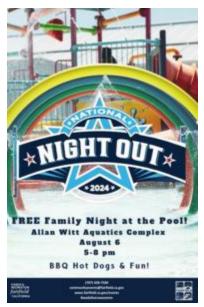
National Night Out Suisun and Fairfield

Save the date for National Night Out at Heritage Park! Police, Fire, Recreation, and other community agencies like Meals on Wheels, the Kroc Center, and many more will be in attendance. Come chat with our officers, firemen, and other City officials. Check out the National Night Out event flier for more details, and we hope to see you there!

Having your own neighborhood National Night Out event? Register your event with the Suisun City Police Department to add to their list for officials to visit.

NNO-Neighborhood-Registration-Form.pdf





The City of Fairfield Parks & Recreation Department will host its 2024 National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 6, from 5:00 pm to 8 pm 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 we will provide hot dogs, chips and beverages.

All families are welcome at this free event.

PRESENTED BY CITY OF FAIRFIELD & PARTNERS

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, Aug 2 5-8 PM

PUBLIC EVENTS FOR NNO

DAIE	LOCATION	VENILIME
8/02/2022	CITY OF FAIRFIELD PARKS & REC	5-7 PM
	(ALLAN WITT PARK)	
8/02/2022	DOWNTOWN COUNTY ANNEX LAWN	5-8 PM
8/02/2022	LAUREL CREEK PARK	4-7 PM
8/02/2022	DOVER PARK	5-8 PM
8/02/2022	ROLLING HILLS PARK	5-8 PM
8/02/2022	WOODCREEK PARK	5-8 PM
8/02/2022	CORDELIA COMMUNITY PARK	6-8 PM
8/02/2022	GARY FALATI PARK	5-8 PM
8/02/2022	BAYNORTH CHURCH	5-8 PM
8/02/2022	COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST	5-8 PM
8/02/2022	GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH	6-8 PM
8/02/2022	FAIRFIELD SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST	6-8 PM
8/02/2022	CELEBRATION CHURCH	6-8 PM
FAIRFIELD POLICE	DEPARTMENT 1000 WEBSTER ST WWW.FAIRFIEL	DPOLICE.COM

Nominate your 2024 Solano County Workforce Hero!

Recognizing Outstanding Workforce Achievements of Solano County Businesses and Individuals



SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 5:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.

Travis Credit Union One Travis Way Vacaville



Reservations for complimentary seating will be available beginning August 12.

Workforce Hero Nominations will be accepted online July 15 - August 9.



2023 Workforce Hero Honorees



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF SOLANO COUNTY scan for more information



For detailed information, award categories and nomination forms, visit solanoemployment.org.



Click to edit this placeholder text.



Your Legislative Update Federal actions

House and Senate Actions

In the coming days, the Senate will consider a legislative package – the *Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act* – aimed at safeguarding children online. Pursuant to the measure, social media platforms would be required to take steps to shield underage users from potentially harmful content. The bill would also bar those companies from passing along minors' personal data that would have otherwise been used for targeted advertising. The Senate calendar can be accessed <u>here</u>.

House Committee Advances Child Welfare and Child Support Bills

Last week, the House Ways and Means Committee unanimously approved two bipartisan human services measures. The Committee passed the *Strengthening State and Tribal Child Support Act* (H.R. 7906) and the *Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act* (H.R. 9076). Additional information on the legislation may be found in this Ways and Means Committee press release.

Community Noise Mitigation Program: This program helps to facilitate the installation of sound insulation in covered facilities (including hospitals, daycares, schools, facilities serving senior citizens, and private residences) located near military installations or are impacted by military aviation noise. Additional information on the program is available <u>here</u>.



ANSWER TO FUN FACTS:

On July 29th, after almost two decades, the U.S. Men's Olympic team secured a historic Bronze Medal in team gymnastics in Paris. Asher Hong, Paul Juda, Brody Malone, Stephen Nedoroscik, and Frederick Richard of Team USA pose with their bronze medals.

For More Information, please contact me:

Wanda Williams Supervisor, Solano County District 3

675 Texas Street, Suite 6500, Fairfield, CA 94533-6342www.SolanoCounty.comOffice (707) 784-3006

Latressa Wilson Alford, JD District Representative Ilwilsonalford@solanocounty.com

Kathy Lawton-CeasarDistrictRepresentativekmlawtonceasar@solanocounty.com