



SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER

November 22, 2024



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**Important Numbers
Resources and Dates**

District 2 Office

(707) 784-3031

**Clerk of the Board & County
Administrator's Office**

(707) 784-6100

Veterans Services

(707) 784-6590

Health & Social Services

(707) 784-8400

Assessor/Recorder

(707) 784-6200

Resource Management

(707) 784-6765

Registrar of Voters

(707) 784-6675

**Tax
Collector/Treasurer/County
Clerk**

(707) 784-7485

Area Agency on Aging

(707) 784-8960

In memoriam



Today, November 22, 2024, is the 61st anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy. It was the first time that I saw my parents' cry. Kennedy's Presidential Library is dedicated to all those through the art of politics seek a new and better world. - Monica

Thanksgiving holiday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING. The county buildings will be closed Thursday Nov. 28 and Friday Nov. 29th. Everyone will be back to work on Monday Dec. 2. May you have a wonderful time with family and friends. Take some time for yourself.

I have a request. I have been asked by the veterans to share this information. Papa Jake is a World War 2 veteran who turns 102 in December. Please send him a birthday card. His address is 3559 Diablo Blvd Unit 200 Lafayette, CA 94549. I thank you in advance for your help.

Also, there will be no newsletter next week. The newsletter returns December 6.

- Monica

Solano County Library

Solano County Library will be closed on the following dates:
Thursday, November 28- Thanksgiving
Friday, November 29- Day After Thanksgiving
Branches will close early at 5PM on Wednesday, November 27.

Benicia



All City offices will be **closed**:
November 22nd
November 28th-29th
December 23rd-January 3rd

City offices will have normal business hours December 20th
No permit or inspection services will be offered during the closures. Next working day inspection requests must be received by email to buildingsafety@ci.benicia.ca.us or permit center schedule request by 3pm the working day prior to a closure. All requests received after 3pm will be scheduled the 2nd working day.

For emergency water and sewer service, please contact the Benicia Police Department at 200 East L Street or 707-745-3412

Vallejo

CITY OF VALLEJO HOLIDAY CLOSURE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2024

City offices will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday
City Hall will reopen on Monday, December 2, 2024, at 9:00 am

CITY OF VALLEJO
555 SANTA CLARA STREET
VALLEJO CA, 94590

FIRE/LIFE SAFETY EMERGENCIES: 911
MAINTENANCE EMERGENCIES: (707) 648-5235

CITYOFVALLEJO.NET
FACEBOOK.COM/CITYOFVALLEJO
INSTAGRAM.COM/CITYOFVALLEJO

San Francisco Bay Ferry

San Francisco Bay Ferry will be operating on adjusted schedules during the holiday season including Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. See below for service levels:

- Thanksgiving Day 11/28 – No Service
- Friday 11/29 – Weekend Schedules
- Christmas Day 12/25 – No Service
- New Year's Day 1/1/2025 – No Service

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

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

Information this week

Solano County sends letter in opposition to Vallejo City Council action



Solano County Administrator Bill Emlen sent the following letter to the Vallejo City Manager Andrew Murray this week in opposition to a Cooperative Agreement with the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians.

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

The Vallejo City Council approved the agreement during its Nov. 19 meeting, to read more, click [here](#).

To read the Vallejo staff report, click [here](#).

From that staff report: The city of Vallejo may enter into the Cooperative Agreement with the Scotts Valley Tribe to ensure the city interests are protected regarding analysis of impacts from the Proposed Project that includes a gaming casino, Tribal housing and Tribal Administration buildings on 160 acres in the proposed Fee to Trust application located at I-80 and Admiral Callahan.

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

Medicare Open Enrollment

Congressman John Garamendi is reminding persons that Medicare **Open Enrollment is now underway and runs through December 7.**



From Congressman Garamendi:

"In 2022, I proudly voted to pass the Inflation Reduction Act, empowering Medicare the power to negotiate lower prescription drug prices and reduce healthcare costs for seniors.

As your voice in Congress, I am committed to fighting for universal healthcare and protecting Americans' existing healthcare rights. I'm excited to share the progress we've made to improve our community's access to healthcare.

Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Medicare now has the authority to negotiate lower prescription drug prices. Beginning in January, total out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs will be

capped at \$2,000 annually, ensuring seniors never pay more than that for medications covered under Medicare, including those used to treat cancer and chronic illnesses.

The IRA also caps the cost of insulin for seniors with diabetes at \$35 a month. In California's 8th District, approximately [74,000](#) individuals living with diabetes, and [20,000](#) rely on daily insulin. Medicare beneficiaries who depend on insulin are now saving an average of [\\$320 annually](#) compared to 2020 prices.

In 2010, I voted to pass the Affordable Care Act, which has helped tens of millions of Americans access affordable, high-quality health insurance. As of 2024, about [26,000](#) of my constituents are enrolled in the Affordable Care Act marketplace, a [16%](#) increase since 2020. Thanks to the IRA, the average enrollee will save [\\$2,630](#) in premiums this year. Without the IRA's enhanced subsidies, the average premium would have increased [117%](#), to an average of [\\$4,870](#).

I encourage every senior in our community to take advantage of these new, lower-cost Medicare benefits. It is more important than ever to look at your drug coverage for 2025 during Medicare Open Enrollment and make sure you are enrolled in the Medicare Part D plan that is best for you. Click the button below for more information on Medicare Open Enrollment."

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

SF Bay Ferry is seeking applicants for its Digital Communications Specialist position



The San Francisco Bay Ferry (WETA) is a public transit agency charged with developing, expanding, and operating San Francisco Bay Ferry service. It provides a vital transportation option for commuters, visitors and everyone crossing the Bay. As part of its mission to provide safe, reliable, and efficient water transit, WETA is looking for individuals with a passion for transportation, a commitment to customer service, and a desire to work collaboratively with a diverse group of colleagues, including a talented Digital Communications Specialist to join the team.

This role involves managing the digital communications and marketing program, creating engaging social media content, developing the website, and designing digital and physical collateral.

For information, and/or to apply, click [here](#).

VA and DOD announce updates to improve Veteran and caregiver access to installations

Last week, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense (DOD) announced an improved installation access process for Veterans and eligible caregivers for medical appointments, shopping, and certain morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) services. Veteran and caregiver eligibility will now be electronically verified during the installation access process.

Eligible Veterans who do not have a VA-issued Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC), as well as eligible caregivers, can enroll for installation access at the visitor center using their REAL ID Act-compliant driver's license or non-driver's identification card. Starting Nov. 1, 2024, Veterans without a VHIC, as well as eligible caregivers, no longer need to present a VA-issued caregiver patronage letter, VA-issued service-connected disability letter, or VA Health Eligibility Center Form H623A to enroll for installation access.

To enroll for reoccurring installation access, eligible Veterans and caregivers must establish identity, fitness, and purpose on their first visit to each DOD installation they wish to access at the visitor's center. As part of enrollment, they must:

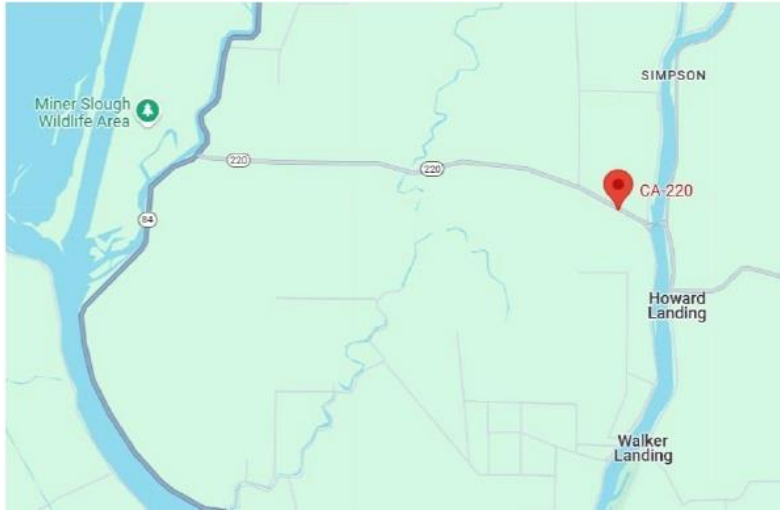
1. Present an acceptable credential VHIC or REAL ID to establish identity.
2. Undergo an on-the-spot criminal record and terrorism check to establish fitness.
3. Have their eligibility for on-installation benefits verified electronically to establish purpose. If purpose is for health care, and the DOD installation does not have a commissary, exchange, or authorized MWR service, then proof of appointment will need to be provided.

Following enrollment, the Veteran or eligible caregivers can access the installation by presenting the same VHIC or REAL ID they enrolled with to gain access at the installation gate. Enrollment is typically valid for one to three years, or one year after the last visit to the given installation. If a patron's VHIC or REAL ID expires, they will need to reenroll with their new VHIC or REAL ID. Termination of a [patron's eligibility](#) will automatically result in the termination of installation access enrollment.

Veterans who do not have a VHIC and eligible caregivers will still need to provide a hard copy letter (a VA-issued caregiver patronage letter, VA-issued service-connected disability letter, or a VA Health Eligibility Center Form H623A) to show eligibility to the commissary, exchange, or authorized MWR services, as these facilities cannot electronically verify eligibility. Currently — for purposes of MWR, commissary, and exchange shopping — eligible

caregivers are those who are approved and designated as a primary family caregiver of an eligible Veteran under VA's [Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers](#).

Temporary Closure of State Route 220 (SR-220) on Ryer Island/Delta Region – Solano County



Caltrans has closed a section of State Route 220 (SR-220) on Ryer Island in the Delta Region of rural Solano County due to storm-related sinkhole repair.

The closure is located on SR-220 between State Route 84 (SR-84) and Steamboat Slough. Caltrans expects this work to be completed in approximately one month and will re-open SR-220 after the pavement is repaired.

Repairs involve filling the sinkhole and sealing off the pavement. Caltrans will provide the public an update once a more definite date for reopening SR-220 is determined.

Both Eastbound and Westbound SR-220 lanes will be closed until work is completed. Detour for SR-220 near Ryer Island in the Delta Region. SR-220 is a bypass road, meaning drivers can use SR-84 or East Ryer Road to travel around the island and reach their destinations.

For real-time traffic, click on Caltrans QuickMap: <http://quickmap>.

Solano Public Health urges residents to take preventive action this fall and winter seasons; offers guidance on celebrating the holidays safely



From a Solano County press release:

The Solano County Department of Health and Social Services, Public Health division, urges residents to take preventive action this fall and winter seasons and celebrate the holidays safely. With the rise of respiratory diseases such as COVID-19, flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (or RSV) in Solano County, it is more important than ever to get vaccinated.

"We encourage everyone to take action and get vaccinated to protect the health and safety of themselves, their loved ones and their community this holiday season," says Solano County's Health Officer Bela T. Matyas, M.D., M.P.H. "By getting vaccinated, residents contribute to preventing severe illness and death."

GENERAL GUIDANCE TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON SAFELY

When it comes to staying safe this holiday season, consider the following tips:

Get vaccinated

- Vaccines are the best protection against infection. Vaccines are safe and effectively reduce risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death
- Everyone ages six months and older should get a 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine. For people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised or are over 65 years old, an additional dose can be administered six months after
- Everyone 6 months and older should get the flu shot to protect children and families from the flu

Practice proper hygiene and stay home if you are sick

- Wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing
- If sick, refrain from touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- **Do not attend celebrations or participate in activities if you feel ill**

Seek treatment early

- Certain groups of people may experience complications from the flu and COVID-19. These groups include pregnant women, children younger than five years old, adults 65 years of age and older, and people with chronic medical conditions, such as heart disease, asthma, and diabetes.
- Doctors can prescribe antiviral medications that reduce the severity and duration of illness. For COVID-19 and flu, there are outpatient treatments that can be effective. Reach out to your healthcare provider early to be evaluated for COVID-19 treatments that may be available for you.
- Anyone who is very sick should go to the emergency room for treatment.

Vaccines are available at doctors' offices and pharmacies. To find a flu or COVID vaccine at a location near you, visit <https://vaccinefinder.org>. For a list of Solano County community clinics free flu shots, visit www.SolanoCounty.com/flu.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Follow Solano Public Health on Facebook [@SolanoCountyPH](https://www.facebook.com/SolanoCountyPH) and at <https://www.SolanoCounty.com/PH>.

Travel-related dengue cases in Solano County; help prevent the transmission of vector-borne diseases

From a Solano County press release:



The Solano County Department of Health and Social Services, Public Health Division is investigating several travel-related dengue virus cases in Solano County. This is occurring at the same time as the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD) has made a new detection of invasive mosquitos in Vacaville that can transmit the dengue virus.

Nearly all dengue cases reported in California have been associated with exposure through travel to an area affected by dengue outside of California. As of November 1, 2024, the California Department of Public Health reports a total of 344 dengue virus infections, 13 of which have been locally acquired infections. Solano has no reported cases of locally acquired dengue virus infections. Three travel-associated infections have been identified as confirmed or probable in 2024, with two more under investigation.

“Don’t bring home disease this holiday season,” said Cameron Kaiser, MD, MPH, FAAFP, Solano Public Health Deputy Health Officer. “Mosquitos like these can transmit dengue as well as also other potentially serious diseases like yellow fever, and biting an

infected person is how it starts. Clean up standing water and junk around your home, and if you're traveling to regions where these illnesses are more common, take some easy precautions to avoid getting bitten and bringing diseases back."

Dengue virus is spread by *Aedes* mosquitos. The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is not native to California and typically lives in tropical, subtropical and in some temperate climates. This invasive mosquito was first detected in Solano County in 2023 in Dixon. They are small, dark mosquitos with white markings and banded legs. Because these mosquitos live near and prefer to feed on people, they are more likely to spread these viruses than other types of mosquitos. This mosquito is most active during the day and it often bites indoors, but it is also active around dusk and dawn.

"We are continuing to conduct our surveillance throughout Solano County," says Miguel Cardenas, SCMAD Manager. "We will protect residents from the potential risks that come with it and do everything possible to eliminate this invasive mosquito."

STEPS TO HELP REDUCE THE RISK

Early detection provides the best chance of eradication. Residents should eliminate all sources of standing water on their property to control the species, including turning over flowerpots, eliminating spare tires and treating swimming pools and drainage ditches, which are common breeding sources of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

Dengue is common in many tropical areas of the world where *Aedes* mosquitos thrive, which includes Latin American and the Caribbean, American Samoa, South Asia / Indian subcontinent, and Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. People who travel to these areas should be aware of dengue and know that it spreads from mosquitos in these areas. Consider dressing appropriately to reduce the risk of bites on your arms and legs and using mosquito repellent in those regions and stay current with recommended vaccinations. Some vaccinations that may not be routine in the United States are recommended for visitors to certain countries.

For additional tips visit <https://www.SolanoMosquito.com/Prevention>. Any unmaintained swimming pools and stagnant water should be reported by calling the SCMAD at (707) 437-1116.

Public hearings

Police Oversight and Accountability Commission (POAC) to meet



The city of Vallejo's Police Oversight and Accountability Commission will meet on **Tuesday, November 26** to receive training on the Brown Act, California Public Records Act, adopted Code of Ethics, Decorum and Meeting Rules & Procedures.

The commission will meet at 7 p.m., inside the Vallejo Room, located on the Lower Level of the John F. Kennedy Public Library, 505 Santa Clara Street.

The commission membership includes:

Mike Nisperos (District 1)
Cameron Clark (District 2)
Richard Hybels (District 3)
Renee Sykes (District 4)
Derek Roy (District 5)
John Lewis (District 6)
Naomi Yun (At-Large)
Melvin Jones (Community Alternate)

To view the agenda, click [here](#).

Fairfield Forward 2050: Next steps through adoption

The public comment period for Fairfield Forward 2050, consisting of a General Plan Update, Climate Action Plan, and Environmental Impact Report (EIR), closed in September 2024. The Public Drafts remain available on the Fairfield Forward 2050 project website at www.fairfieldforward.com.



Public comments will be published on the project website after Wednesday, October 9. Responses to Draft General Plan Update and Draft Climate Action Plan comments will be provided in future staff reports for the Planning Commission and City Council. Responses to Draft EIR comments will be provided in the Final EIR.

Next steps through adoption are as follows:

- **December 3, 2024:** Regular City Council meeting to vote on the adoption of the Fairfield Forward 2050 project

Please contact Jessie Hernandez, Associate Planner, with any questions at (707) 428-7450 or jhernandez@fairfield.ca.gov.

East of Leisure Town Growth Area Specific Plan



All interested people are hereby invited to attend a Community Meeting to meet the City of Vacaville's Project Team and Applicant Team and learn about the status of the planning process for the East of Leisure Town Road Growth Area

(ELTGA) Specific Plan. At this meeting, city staff will provide background information and a high-level planning process overview and answer questions

The community meeting will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 4 inside the Three Oaks Community Center, 1100 Alamo Drive, Vacaville.

On April 9, 2024, the Vacaville City Council directed City staff to begin the planning process for preparing a Specific Plan to develop approximately 648 acres of land located east of Leisure Town Road, which is commonly known as the "East of Leisure Town Growth Area" (ELTGA). The entire ELTGA is comprised of 1,317 acres and the planning process has been completed for 669 acres of land through previous approvals such as Brighton Landing, Roberts' Ranch, and the Farm at Alamo Creek.

The remaining 648 acres are comprised of agricultural land with three different landowners seeking to develop their properties and annex into Vacaville City limits.

The Planning process will involve the creation of a new Specific Plan that would lay out potential land uses for the ELTGA. The entire Planning process will be a multi-year land use permitting process involving a General Plan Amendment, Specific Plan, Tentative Subdivision Maps, Development Agreements, Annexations, and an Environmental Impact Report.

On August 13, 2024, the Vacaville City Council approved three contracts for hiring professional services to assist the City with this process, funded by the Applicant Team.

Applications

A&P Childrens:

The A&P Children Investments Property (File No. 24-047) is comprised of 127.0 acres located on the east side of Leisure Town Road and south of Fry Road. The initial development concept

includes 1,027 new residential units consisting of single-family detached homes, townhomes, and multi-family duplexes, a 3.9-acre commercial mixed-use neighborhood, two 1.5-acre Neighborhood parks, 4.9-acre of additional activated parks and open spaces with trails, and 4.2-acres for a water detention basin.

Donaldson-Ramos:

The Donaldson-Ramos Property (File No. 24-049) is comprised of 254.3 acres located on the east side of Leisure Town Road, north of Hawkins Road, and south of Ulatis Creek. The initial development concept includes 2,931 residential units consisting of single-family detached homes, townhomes, and apartments, a 9-acre commercial and mixed-use site, a 12.6-acre school site, 36.4 acres of parks and open spaces, and 14.1 acres for a water detention basin.

Rayson's-Chen:

The Rayson's-Chen Property (File No. 24-045) is comprised of 165.55 acres located on the east side of Leisure Town and north of Ulatis Creek. The initial development concept includes 994-1,019 new residential units consisting of single-family detached homes and multi-family apartments, with approximately 6-10 acres of public parkland and a 300 ft. agricultural buffer along the eastern boundary abutting agricultural uses in Solano County.

Contacts and Additional Information

Applicant Team:

Todd Chambers, Lewis Management Corporation, Todd.Chambers@lewismc.com, (916) 403-1704

City Contact:

Albert Enault, Senior Planner, Community Development Department, Albert.Enault@CityofVacaville.com, (707) 449-5364

Project Website:

CityofVacaville.gov/GrowthAreasPlanning

Updates from around Solano County

Cal Maritime update

To avoid shutting down Cal Maritime, California's smallest public university, Cal State leaders approved merging it with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Cal Maritime's graduates lead commercial ships that move cargo or U.S. military supplies around the world. But its enrollment has plummeted in recent years, from 1,107 in 2016-17 to 761 last fall.

Merging with highly selective Cal Poly, which is 250 miles away, is expected to cost at least \$5 million a year for the next seven years, but that's far less than keeping Cal Maritime separate at its reduced size.

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

Opening of Lopes Road



From Benicia City Manager Mario Giuliani:

The Benicia Raw Water Line Emergency Repair project is coupled with the City of Fairfield which is the lead agency. Related is the repair of Lopes Road which is a City of Fairfield road and that repair will be the final phase of the projects to repair the Benicia and Fairfield water lines. City of Fairfield staff is the lead on the project and they would be best to give you a status update. I can tell you that we are at 35% design with the project.

Right now, we are hopeful to have a spring/summer 2025 waterline construction project with the road repair to follow.

"I have reached out to Fairfield Mayor Catherine Moy. I hope to have more information from Fairfield soon." - Monica

New program helps families at risk of homelessness

Solano County and CAP Solano are partnering with the United Way California Capital Region in launching the "Keep People Housed – Solano" program.



The program is "designed to provide critical resources and support to Solano County residents at risk of losing their housing," the county administration said in a statement.

To continue reading, click [here](#).

Public invited to comment on proposed battery energy storage system project as company seeks permit through California Energy Commission



From a Solano County press release:

A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project, known as the Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project, is pursuing a permit through the California Energy Commission's (CEC) Assembly Bill (AB) 205 [Opt-In process](#). The project, proposed by Corby Energy Storage, LLC, aims to construct and operate a 300-megawatt (MW) lithium-ion battery energy storage facility in unincorporated Solano County, and would be located on 40 acres of prime farmland near the existing Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Vaca-Dixon Substation. The project's primary purpose is to store excess energy during periods of low demand and release it during peak demand periods, contributing to grid stability and reliability.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

As part of the CEC's AB 205 Opt-In process, the project will undergo an environmental review and public engagement process. It should be noted that Corby is pursuing an alternative permitting pathway through the CEC for the proposed BESS project, choosing to direct all permitting decisions through the CEC as opposed to the local permitting process. Therefore, Solano County residents and interested parties are encouraged to participate in this process and stay engaged by submitting comments to the CEC and attending public meetings.

Corby's application was submitted on November 4, 2024, which started a 30-day clock for the CEC to determine whether the project application is complete. The CEC is accepting public comments on the application at this time, which can be submitted through the link below. **To ensure comments are received, it is advised to submit them to the CEC by or before December 4, 2024.**

- To submit comments on the Corby BESS Project, click [HERE](#).
- To stay informed about the Corby BESS Project and receive notifications about upcoming public meetings, click [HERE](#) and subscribe for project updates via email.
- To view the docket log for the Corby BESS Project, where correspondence and project documents may be downloaded, click [HERE](#).

CONTACTING THE CEC / SOLANO COUNTY

For questions about the project or the CEC process, contact Renee Longman, Project Manager, at STEPsiting@Energy.Ca.Gov and (916) 937-3538. Include project name in email subject line. For public participation inquiries, contact the Public Advisor at PublicAdvisor@Energy.Ca.Gov and (916) 269-9595.

You may also contact Allan Calder, Planning Program Manager with the Solano County Department of Resource Management to provide input and / or questions about the process at AMCalder@SolanoCounty.com and (707) 784-3159.

STAY INFORMED

Solano County encourages residents to stay informed and participate in the decision-making process for this significant energy infrastructure project. The County will continue to monitor and comment on the CEC's process and ensure that local interests are represented throughout the permitting process to the maximum extent feasible.

Additional projects may be announced by the CEC as they come forward. Stay informed on new projects seeking a permit through this process by visiting the AB 205 homepage and signing up for the program updates by clicking [here](#).

To be added to the Solano County BESS update list please email: EnergyStorage@SolanoCounty.com

Sandbag locations



From Congressman John Garamendi:

The National Weather Service has forecast heavy rain with risks for flooding for northern California through Friday. Be prepared and check your property, clear drains and gutters, and look out for falling tree limbs and other debris.

Solano County [sandbag locations](#).

Fairfield announces new Poet Laureate Michael Wyly

After two years of volunteer service, the city of Fairfield's Poet Laureate, Suzanne Bruce, will pass the pen to Solano College English Professor, Michael Wyly.



Wyly currently teaches English at Solano Community College and was chosen as the next Poet Laureate by the City Council. He will assume the role on January 1, 2025.

During her tenure as Poet Laureate, Bruce shared her poetry at several city council meetings and public events. She also organized several events to encourage aspiring poets, with a focus on youth poets. These events included Hike & Write's, open mic's, readings, and an ongoing column in the Daily Republic. Her service has been inspirational, and she leaves large shoes for Wyly to fill.

Wyly is eager to take on the challenge and continue Bruce's legacy of community engagement through poetry. Bruce will formally introduce Wyly at her last event, Culture Celebrations on December 21.

For more information about the current Poet Laureate and events, click [here](#).

City of Fairfield launching Shop Local Campaign



As we approach this season of gift-giving, the city of Fairfield would like to encourage everyone to shop local to keep our tax dollars in our community. To support this, the Community Development Department is launching a campaign to encourage residents and visitors to spend their time and resources in Fairfield.

The campaign, "The Buck Stops Here – Shop Small, Shop Local", will feature videos of locally-owned and operated businesses. The videos will highlight the unique features of each business and the important role each one plays in stimulating Fairfield's economy. Store and restaurant sales generate sales tax, which the city reinvests in the community.

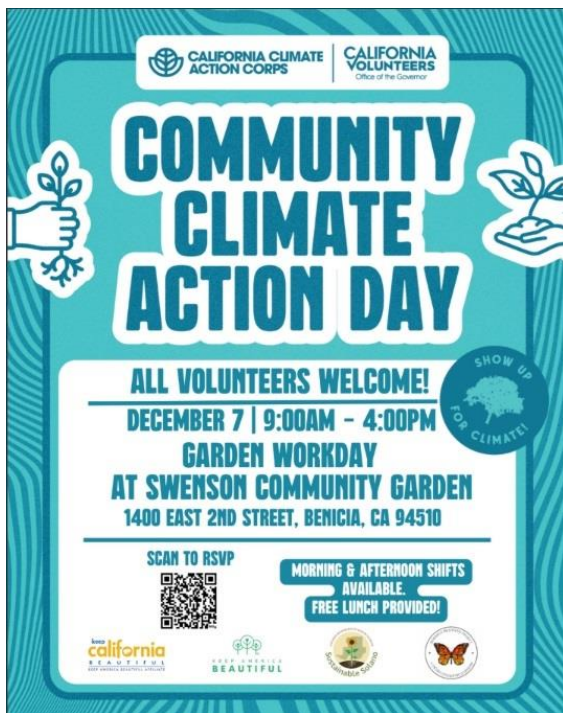
Community Development's Economic Development Team works continuously to attract, support, promote, and retain Fairfield businesses. One example is the City's partnership and annual financial support for the Solano-Napa Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The SBDC provides entrepreneurs and small

businesses with technical assistance and training to set them up for future success.

In 2023, the Small Business Association estimated that \$17 billion was spent on Small Business Saturday across the Country. In recognition of Small Business Saturday, the SBDC's outstanding work with the Economic Development Team, and to mark "The Buck Stops Here - Shop Small, Shop Local" campaign, the City Council will present the SBDC with a proclamation at the December 19 council meeting.

To learn more about the City of Fairfield's Community Development and Economic Development work, click [here](#).

Community Climate Action Day



Join the rest of the community for a day of volunteer-powered climate action! This hands-on, day-long event will help the community revitalize Swenson Community Garden in Benicia as volunteers repair, replace and assemble ADA-compliant garden beds, move mulch and plant pollinator-friendly plants.

Two volunteer shifts will be available, so volunteers can join for the morning, afternoon or the entire day. This is a fantastic opportunity to make a difference, learn about community gardening, and contribute to a healthier, more resilient community.

Sustainable Solano has partnered with California Volunteers, Office of the Governor, California Climate Action Corps, Keep California Beautiful, Keep America Beautiful, and the Monarch Milkweed

Project to support the revitalizing of Swenson Community Garden. Volunteers will repair and replace existing garden beds, bring some beds up to ADA height, move mulch, install benches, and establish a pollinator habitat.

Please note that two volunteer shifts are available, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. If you'd like to join for the entire day, please register for both time slots. Lunch will be provided at noon for both shifts.

9:00 am: MORNING SHIFT check-in 9:15 am: Welcome remarks, safety briefing & volunteer project overview for morning shift

9:30 – 12:00 pm: Morning volunteer shift

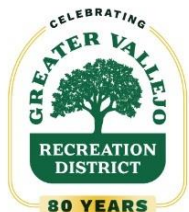
12:00 pm: Volunteer lunch (all volunteers are encouraged to join for lunch regardless of their scheduled shift)

12:00 - 1:15 pm: AFTERNOON SHIFT check-in 1:15 pm: Welcome, safety briefing & project overview for afternoon shift

1:30 – 4:00 pm: Second volunteer shift

To register, click [here](#).

Virtual Driver's Education



Know a teen or adult who needs to get their Driver's Education certificate? The Greater Vallejo Recreation District is offering Virtual Driver's Ed classes, with multiple sessions available.

Virtual Driver's Education with a live instructor. Students will enjoy a series of Driver's Education lectures, the responsibilities of having a driver's license, learning the rules of the road, and accident-avoidance procedures. Assignments will also be completed during the week. Students will receive a DMV-approved certificate of completion.

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

Crab feed



Saturday January 18th, 2025

American Legion Post 550

420 Admiral Callaghan Lane, Vallejo

Doors open at 6 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m. with raffle to follow

The Napa-Solano Building and Construction Trades Council invites you to the 25th Annual Crab Feed. We can't wait to see you for a night of crab, spaghetti and salad. Melted butter will be provided.

No-host bar available. **ABSOLUTELY NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL.**

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE for \$100 per person

**Large groups can be accommodated
No tickets sold at door; event will sell out**

Make checks payable to:

Napa-Solano Building Trades Council

2540 N. Watney Way, Fairfield, CA 94533

Contact Danny Bernardini at 707-454-6918 or dannybctc@gmail.com

Benicia Public Library Winter Coat Drive



As we continue to enjoy the sun and warm temperatures, it's hard to think that cold and wet weather is just around the corner. We all know that winter is coming! This year the Benicia Public Library will begin its annual coat drive early so that winterwear can be distributed to those in need before they need it.

The drive began quietly last week and now is in full swing. Please bring clean, gently used or new coats, outerwear, and other winter gear to the **library (150 E L Street) during open hours any time between now and December 18.**

Donated items are picked up and redistributed through our partnership with Catholic Charities.

Winter Shelter at BayNorth Church of Christ



BayNorth Church of Christ will be providing a winter shelter for city of Fairfield residents who are unhoused.

The winter shelter will operate each night **through March 31, 2025. The intake process will be from 6:30 to 8 pm and the shelter exit time will be 6 am each morning. Those needing shelter are allowed to line up starting at 6 pm.**

The winter shelter will be filled on a first come, first served basis each night with a limited capacity of ten. Individuals needing shelter must be able to independently manage activities of daily living and agree to comply with program guidelines. There will be limited space for personal belongings.

The winter shelter address is 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, and the phone number is (707) 260-9794.

FAST will provide free bus rides to the winter shelter on FAST route 3 from 6 to 7 pm Monday-Friday. Those who need a ride will need to board the bus at the Fairfield Transportation Center and let the driver know they are going to the winter shelter. Exit the bus at Solano Town Center, make a left on Pennsylvania Ave. and walk one block to Bay North Church of Christ.

Cordelia Fire Protection District - Board of Directors Vacancy



Information from the Green Valley Landowners Associations:

This month one of the Cordelia Fire Protection District's (CFPD) Board Members, Jeff Dittmer is retiring after many years of outstanding service. As such his seat will be open. CFPD Board seats are four-year, elected positions in Solano County. However, when a vacancy occurs outside the election cycle, the Board appoints a replacement to serve out the remainder of their term. At

the end of the term, the replacement may run for election. It is not uncommon to run unopposed. When that happens, the position does not show up on the ballot and the current member is automatically appointed for a four-year term. The Board opening occurring this month will have a four-year term and the CFPD is seeking interested candidates to interview for an appointment. The main qualifications are:

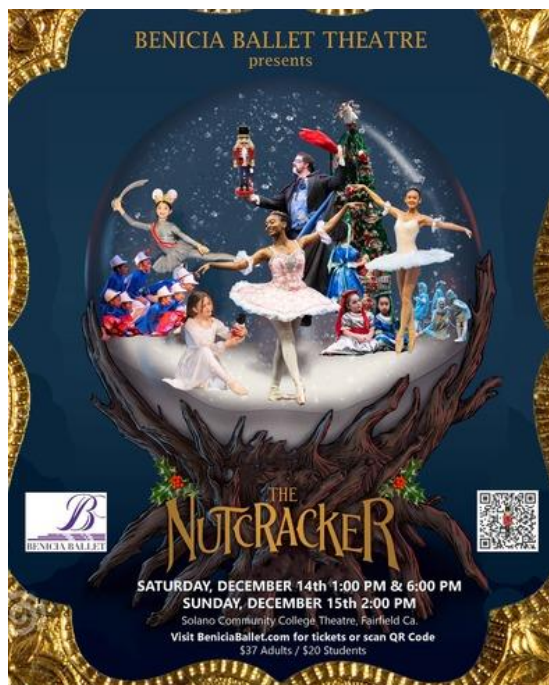
- Residency in the area,
- A record of organizational and/or project management skills,
- An interest in serving to protect neighbors and valley residents.

Responsibilities are limited to attending monthly board meetings to deal with the various administrative functions of the district and to help manage interesting projects, such as the shaded fuel break currently being built around the top and sides of Green Valley. This is a great opportunity to get involved! If you are interested in the fire safety of our neighborhood and valley, please contact one of the following members as they are actively seeking a replacement to start in December 2024 / January 2025:

- Chair & Director: Jim Frische, jfrischecordeliafire@gmail.com
- Director: Glen Langstaff, glenlangstaff@cordeliafire.org

The CFPD Board welcomes the opportunity to provide additional details and arrange an interview.

Nutcracker Ballet



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

Solano County Sheriff Scam - 11/15/2024

From constituent Constance Beutel about the dangers of being scammed.

"On November 14, 2024, around 2 p.m., the caller left a message saying he was Rick (Tosul?) from the Solano County Sheriff's office (707) 355-4288. I called immediately and there was a recorded message saying to the effect that the Sheriffs were busy and would call me back. I left a message.

I received a call back voice message on November 15, 2024, at approximately 4:50 p.m. and asked for a call back. I called and began talking with Lt. Larry Davis, Badge #0571, saying there was a warrant for my arrest for Jury Duty Avoidance and I was to turn myself over to the Sheriff immediately at 530 Union St., Fairfield.

It was suggested that I had been excused from Jury Duty earlier but was served with another notice for which someone signed for me. I said I had never signed any document from the County. Lt Davis said the only way that I could dispute this was to come in and sign a sworn signature affidavit that would be matched against the signature they had but that I would need to spend the weekend in jail until at least Tuesday, November 19, 2024, when a judge would rule on my status.

I asked was there anything I could do to avoid going to jail and I was told that a 'security status non detention bond' was possible and that he would work with the finance department to set this up. I asked if this was done through a bond agent, and he said it would be done through Wal-Mart money services transaction. I asked if I could contact an attorney, and I was told that one would be provided for me.

He told me I had to leave my house immediately and to not disconnect the phone. I told him I was talking on a landline and couldn't leave the house and stay on the line. He asked for my cell phone number which I gave to him.

I used the time to get my wallet, etc. to send an email to Supervisor Monica Brown to see if she had any advice for me and, using my landline, I called my friends who felt it was a scam. Which turned out to be the case, however, I had let myself be caught by the official sounding call, the fact that I had asked to be dismissed from jury duty due to my age (78) some months ago...and felt it was plausible that there was some problem in processing that request.

He was insistent that I do not disconnect the phone. At this time, I noticed his call was from Middletown, Calif. which isn't in Solano County. I asked about this, and he brushed by the question. Then

he suggested two Walmart locations for me to go to. One was in Martinez which seemed strange as it was in Contra Costa County and the other was at 2107 N Texas St., Fairfield. He said he would arrange to have payment information texted to me when I reached the Walmart.

The following is the number Lt. Davis was calling from: (707) 355-4288

During the drive to Fairfield, he kept asking my location and estimated time of arrival. As I was familiar with W Texas Street that would lead me to the County Offices, I said I would exit there. I felt it was strange that a Solano County Sheriff's official would be so unfamiliar with the directions to this Walmart in Fairfield.

In any event, I was able to locate N Texas and the Walmart, and I was given specific instructions about how to take the info that would be texted to me to the money center in Walmart and this would consist of two debit card transactions, one for \$1000 and the other \$1500.

Once paid I was to take the voucher to the Sheriff's Office on Union Street. If the signature affidavit/verification to be done there was determined in my favor, I would receive my money back. At the Walmart parking lot. I received the the text with the attached information. I still had to carry my cell phone with the line open to Lt. Davis to the counter where a very savvy young woman, Megan, heard my explanation...with Lt Davis saying do not discuss this and just say "legal" transaction.

Megan said, 'hang up, it's a scam. We do not handle anything like this.' She asked if I knew how to block the caller and said I didn't so she helped me block this number.

Meanwhile, my own savvy friends immediately called the Benicia Police and told them of my situation. My friends advised the Benicia Police that I was probably on I-680 North, already *en route* to Fairfield. Police attempted to locate me on I-680 North. Upon my return to Benicia, I debriefed them on this very distressing scam that I nearly fell all the way into. The Benicia Police were terrific and understanding. I totally want my sad tale to spread as an alert to anyone else who might be duped. I thought I was pretty scam savvy, but I learned I wasn't and almost went totally, "Hook, Line and Sinker."

In hindsight, I should have:

> Verified the phone number 707-355-4288 against the Solano County phone number 707-784-7000.

> Disconnected and called the Police

> If uncertain, go directly to the Sheriff's Office on 530 Union Street

> Questioned the Walmart option

What I have learned in talking with the Solano County Sheriff's Office and the Superior Court:

Superior Court: If you miss a court appearance for Jury Duty, you will be sent a letter, if not cleared, then a summons will be sent. They will never do anything over the phone and will never charge any money.

Sheriff's Office: If there is a warrant for your arrest, the Sheriff's Officer will come to your home and pick you up.

I hope this helps others avoid being scammed.

Kamikaze!



Embark with Dr. Rob Hoffman of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory on a historical journey spanning eight decades, from a pivotal amphibious operation in the 1940s to the high desert of Nevada during the peak of the Cold War era.

Prior to the Allied landings on the Philippines, the Japanese employed Kamikaze pilots in a devastating aerial campaign during a naval battle, which ultimately became the deadliest in naval history. You will not believe what Dr. Hoffman and his team found!

The discussion will take from 3 to 4 p.m., Sunday, January 5, inside St. Peter's Chapel, 1181 Walnut Avenue on Mare Island in the city of Vallejo.

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

Who can say "no" to free Hallmark+?

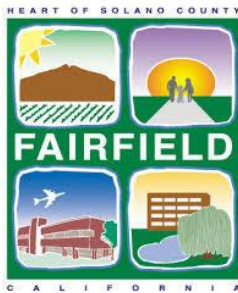


That's right! Your Solano County library card gives you unlimited access to the Hallmark+ streaming service through Hoopla! Just login or sign-up for a Hoopla account using your library card and use one of your monthly checkouts towards a Hallmark+ BingePass.

The BingPass lasts a week and can be checked out again and again, with no waiting on holds lists!

[Use this link](#) to go straight to the Hallmark+ BingePass:

Measure P Oversight Committee Releases Annual Report



Measure P Oversight Committee Chair Steve Vancil presented the Measure P Annual Report to the Fairfield City Council at the November 19, council meeting.

Measure P is a locally controlled 1% transaction and use tax designed to: protect public safety, fix streets and roads, improve youth and senior services, and enhance the quality of life in Fairfield.

Measure P funds accounted for 18.23% (or \$25.4 million) of the city of Fairfield's General Fund in fiscal year 2023-2024 and served as an important revenue source.

To view the report and the 2024 brochure, click [here](#).

Solano County jobs

Positions
Accountant (Entry)
Information Technology Analyst IV (Cloud Integration Engineer)
Victim/Witness Assistant

If you have any questions, please contact recruitment@solanocounty.com.

For more information about these jobs, click [here](#). The county is also looking for a custodian, for more information, click [here](#).

City of Fairfield seeks applications for the Golf Advisory Board

The city of Fairfield is accepting applications to fill two expired seats on the Golf Advisory Board with a term of January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2028. Mayor Moy will appoint the board members with the approval of the City Council.



The Golf Advisory Board is a seven-member board that advises on promoting and developing golf for all ages in the community at Paradise Valley and Rancho Solano golf courses. The board is scheduled to meet quarterly on the first Thursday of February, May, August, and November at 4 p.m. at the Dunnell Nature Center. All applicants must be residents of the city of Fairfield and active participants at Rancho Solano Golf Course and/or Paradise Valley Golf Course. **The application deadline is 5 p.m., Thursday, December 19.**

Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office at Fairfield City Hall, 1000 Webster Street, 4th floor. Download the [application](#) or request one by mail or email by contacting Deputy City Clerk Esther Beavers at (707) 428-7402 or cityclerk@fairfield.ca.gov. Completed applications may be submitted via mail, email, or in person.

The city is not responsible for lost or misdirected applications.

Juried Art Show Poetry Reading

The poster is for a poetry reading event. It has a pink background. In the top left corner is a white icon of an eye with rays. In the top right corner is a small logo for the City of Fairfield. In the center is a teal circle with the words 'Art & Poetry' written in white cursive. Below the circle, the text reads: 'SUZANNE BRUCE, FAIRFIELD POET LAUREATE & FAIRFIELD-SUISUN CITY VISUAL ARTS ASSOCIATION'. Below that, it says 'invite poets to write to art pieces selected for the 61st Annual Nor-Cal Regional Juried Art Show'. At the bottom, there is a teal banner with white text: 'Gallery - FSVAA Solano Town Center (Inside the Solano Town Center) 1350 Travis Blvd. #D-8, Fairfield, CA'. At the very bottom, the website 'www.fairfield.ca.gov/poet' is written in pink.

Fairfield Poet Laureate, Suzanne Bruce, will host two more events before her tenure ends. For the first event, she is partnering with the Fairfield-Suisun City Visual Arts Association (FSVAA) to invite poets to write poems to art pieces selected for the 61st Annual Nor-Cal Regional Juried Art Show.

Participants can visit the gallery in person at Solano Town Center or online at www.fvaa-arts.org. **The exhibit will run through January 4, 2025, and the Poetry Reading will be held on Saturday, December 7.**

November calendar for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall



The November calendar of events for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall:

November 22: Hamburgers by American Legion Aux, Kevin and Patty

28 Thanksgiving Day

29 Hamburgers by VFW

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

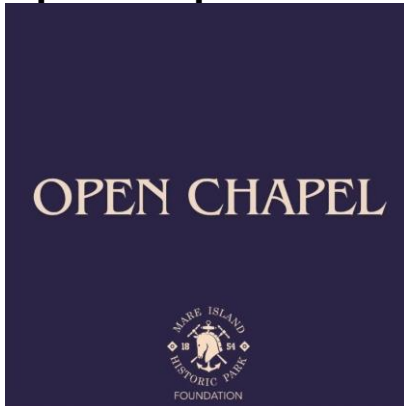
Upcoming events in Solano County

Holiday fundraiser



Please join us for our
HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE
A non-profit fundraiser
at the Benicia Veteran's Memorial Hall
Saturday, November 23rd 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Holiday Decor, Art, Apparel, Crafts, Toys, Treats and More!
There's something special about a **CRAFT FAIR**
Vendor Space \$50.00
Contact Kevin at 925-457-2915
Benicia Veteran's Memorial Hall
1150 First Street, Benicia, CA 94510

Open Chapel



Visit Mare Island's historic chapel during Open Chapel days and experience its serene beauty and rich history at your own pace. Step inside to admire the famous Tiffany-stained glass windows and take in the intricate details of this iconic site.

2nd & 4th Sundays of the month, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$5 per person. The next Open Chapel will take place, Sunday, November 24. St. Peter's Chapel, 1181 Walnut Avenue on Mare Island in the city of Vallejo.

Docents will be on hand to answer any questions and share insights about the chapel's history and unique features. This is not a guided tour. Dates are subject to change due to private events.

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

Wreath making workshop for teens

The logo for Solano County Library, featuring a stylized sunburst icon to the left of the text "Solano County LIBRARY".

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

HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP FOR TEENS

A circular wreath made of white, fuzzy material, decorated with several red and white pom-poms and a red bow at the top.

Learn how to create a beautiful holiday wreath using unique materials.

Registration required.
Register online starting November 1st through the library website.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD
4:00-5:30PM
FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

For more information, visit solanolibrary.com/events

Winter at Wonderland



**The Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) presents:
Winter at Wonderland on Friday, December 6 from 5 to 7 p.m.,
with the tree lighting schedule for 6:30 p.m.**

Event is free.

Experience the enchantment of the season at the GVRD Tree Lighting Ceremony! Gather with loved ones as we illuminate the night sky with a magical Tree Lighting ceremony. Delight in live-music, sip on warm hot cocoa, and capture cherished moments with Santa himself. Join in for an unforgettable evening of festive cheer and watch as the tree sparkles to life, marking the beginning of a joyous holiday season!

Children's Wonderland Park is located at 360 Glenn Street in the city of Vallejo.

For more information, email recreation@gvrd.org or call (707) 648-4600.

Tree lighting



The annual holiday tree lighting will take place on Friday, December 6, at 6 p.m. in downtown Fairfield. The Christmas tree will stand at the corner of Texas and Jefferson Streets and will be lit by Mayor Catherine Moy at 6:30 p.m.

Activities following the tree lighting will be located along Texas Street, between Union Avenue and Madison Street, and will include musical performances, fun activities, a trackless train, hot cocoa, photos with Santa, and the Grinch Who DJ'd Christmas.

All are welcome to stroll the downtown and get into the holiday spirit! There will be carolers and merchant displays and open houses.

Visit [here](#) for more information or contact Special Events Coordinator, Juan Segura, at jsegura@fairfield.ca.gov or (707) 428-7584 with any questions.

Holiday Concert: VOENA Children's Choir - Voices of Christmas Bells



Join the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation at St. Peter's Chapel for a truly unique holiday concert with a magical performance by the acclaimed VOENA Children's Choir!

VOENA's return to St. Peter's will fill the extraordinary 1901 Arts & Crafts chapel with angelic voices in the presence of the luminous Tiffany-stained glass windows, making this an unforgettable musical and visual experience.

Dressed in full Victorian attire, the choir will take you on a journey mixing familiar holiday carols with cascading sounds of handbells - from St. Peter's Chapel - making this a magical concert to be remembered. Guest artist, Drumdala, will join VOENA using a unique design inspiration from a stunning array of drums. Richard Sherwood, creator, has performed all over the world, from Singapore to Shanghai to the Roman Coliseum.

As a special bonus, fresh back from a summer cultural immersion tour to the beautiful country of Croatia, a group of 11 hand-picked VOENA vocalists will treat you to an incredible performance of the traditional Klappa singing style of the southern Croatian regions of Dalmatia.

VOENA's mission unites the world with children's voices. Singers, spanning 35 cultures, have performed at the White House, in China, Greece, Bali, Italy, Japan and Abu Dhabi, at the Olympics, and at New York's Iconic Carnegie Hall.

Ticket Prices:

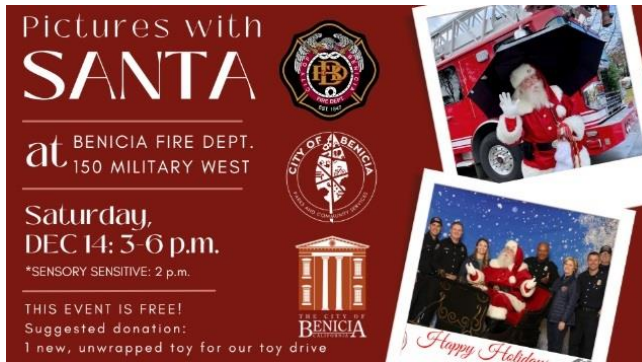
\$45 - Reserve Seating (guaranteed seating in the first 3 rows)

\$35 - General Admission

Doors open at 2:30pm to give you time to enjoy the beautiful Tiffany-stained glass windows.

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

Pictures with Santa!



Benicia Fire and Benicia Community Services Departments are excited to welcome Santa Claus! Join them as Santa takes time out of his busy December schedule to **stop by Fire Station 11 on Saturday, December 14 from 3 to 6 p.m. Fire Station 11 is located at 150 Military West.**

This event is free and open to the public. There is a suggested donation of a toy for the toy drive. All toys must be new and unwrapped. There is also a private session for sensory sensitive children from 2 to 2:30 p.m. No need to RSVP.

If you have questions, call (707) 746-4275 or email Della Olm at dolm@ci.benicia.ca.us.

Culture Celebrations



The second event is a Culture Celebrations Poetry Open Mic on **Saturday, December 21, 1 to 3 p.m., Fairfield Cordelia Library**. Attendees will also be able to meet the next Fairfield Poet Laureate, Michael J. Wyly, who begins his term in January 2025.

For more information on both of these events, click [here](#).

Events I attended this week

Friday, November 15, I attended the Suisun Marsh Watershed Education Program run by the Solano Resource Conservation District (SRCD). These programs send teacher scientists to the classroom to work with the students to explain what they will see and do in the field. I have attended many of their programs before, but now the question is the funding. Many of our students have not been outdoors to explore why our environment is important. Questions such as "What is a watershed and why is it important?" "Why should we study the creeks?" "What makes a healthy creek?" I believe that if students do not explore and learn why open space is necessary, we will lose it. Visit solanorcd.org for more information.

Later in the day, I drove to Mare Island for the working Waterfront Coalition's Graduation of the Marines Trades Training Cohort #1. The event was a celebration graduation of 25 students completing the 10-week Marine Trades Training. If you are interested in a career with the Maritime industry, please go to WaterfrontJobs.com

Saturday, November 16, I, and many others, attended the Home Dedication Ceremony sponsored by Habitat for Humanity. Three new homes were built. Saturday was the ribbon cutting for three families who will celebrate Thanksgiving in their new homes. It was a coming together of the village from the county to the city to Congressman Garamendi and hundreds of volunteers. The excitement of seeing everyone's effort cannot be put into words.

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

Super moon over Patwino Worrta Kodoi Dihi park. Photo: Marvin and Jeri Hermits Roost, California.



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.