



August 18, 2023

SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER



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Congratulations!

I want to extend my congratulations to Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District students Sachi Bansal, and Aaron Phelps, who have been chosen as finalists to premiere their films at the All-American High School International Film Festival.

Sachi's entry, "Sad Disco," showcases her unique fusion of music and visuals. Aaron's documentary, "Slanted Perspectives: My Life with



[Follow on Twitter](#)

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

SMA," offers an intimate glimpse into his journey with Spinal Muscular Atrophy. (707) 784-7485

They will showcase their films in New York City from October 20 to 23, 2023. Great Job!

Area Agency on Aging

(707) 784-8960

Gas station closed

Fairfield Costco gasoline at 5101 Business Center Drive will be shut closed for expansion from Sunday Aug. 20 to Nov. 1. The store will still be opened.

U.S. Social Security

(800) 772-1213

Information this week

New veterans' benefits



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that veterans under 40, who may have been exposed to burn pits and other toxins during their service, are now eligible for breast cancer risk assessments and mammograms at VA medical centers, reported Congressman John Garamendi.

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

Honoring Our PACT Act ([H.R.3967](#)) is the largest expansion of veterans care and benefits in decades as toxic-exposed veterans are eligible for additional screenings and health services. Click [here](#) to apply for Honoring Our PACT Act related benefits or to learn more about qualifying for breast cancer risk assessment screenings.

Board of Supervisors seeks community's help identifying centenarians for recognition ceremony



It's that time of the year again! The Solano County Board of Supervisors is asking for help in identifying centenarians living in the community for recognition at an upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting later this fall as part of the 17th annual centenarian commemoration celebration.

This year, as part of the commemoration event, the Board will receive a video presentation of Solano County's Centenarians, sharing stories from their amazing lives. The Board of Supervisors has hired a professional videographer who will come to your home (or place of your choosing) to conduct the video interview. Information collected at the interviews will also be

included as part of a commemorative yearbook, distributed to all Centenarians shortly after the commemoration event.

Centenarians who wish not to conduct an interview are still encouraged to submit information, including a biography and photographs to help tell their life story.

If you know of a centenarian, please email Centenarian@SolanoCounty.com and/or call my office at (707) 784-3004 **by or before September 4, 2023**. Please relay the following information over the phone or in an email to the Supervisor, including (1) name, (2) address, (3) phone number, (4) and best contact email address.

Major pavement repair work



The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has scheduled several projects over the coming weekends which will close sections of freeways in our area.

There are weekend closures on Eastbound I-80 scheduled for the weekend of **August 18**. EB I-80 will be closed and traffic detoured beginning at the EB I-80/State Route-4 interchange in Hercules. The closure will start **Friday at 9pm** and conclude on the following **Monday at 5am**.

A 104-hour full highway closure of westbound I-80 is scheduled on Labor Day weekend starting **Thursday, August 31 at 9pm** and

concluding **at 5am on Tuesday, September 5, 2023**. WB I-80 will be closed and traffic detoured beginning at the WB I-80/I-780 interchange in Vallejo.

Motorists traveling eastbound on I-80 will need to exit onto eastbound SR-4 in Hercules and continue on EB SR-4 to Northbound I-680. Motorists can use NB I-680 to reach I-80 in Fairfield or use WB I-780 to access the Benicia and Vallejo areas. Cummings Skyway between SR-4 and I-80 will also be open for motorists heading to the Crockett area.

Motorists traveling westbound on I-80 at I-780 (Curtola Pkwy) will need to exit onto eastbound I-780 in Vallejo and continue on EB I-780 to SB I-680. Motorists can use SB I-680 to reach WB SR-4, WB SR-24 or WB I-580 to access central and south Bay Area destinations.

If you have a question or want to share a concern about the project, please call the **CC I-80 Pave Project Hotline (510) 286-0319**. Project Webpage: www.cc80pave.com

Public Notices

Solano County to open public review period for Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The public review period for the 2023 Solano County Community Wildfire Protection Plan will open soon.



The Solano County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) represents a comprehensive effort to enhance the safety and resilience of our communities against the threat of wildfires, the county announced this week. Through a collaborative and community-driven approach, this plan aims to identify and address vulnerabilities while emphasizing the protection of lives, property, and our natural resources.

The public is invited to review the draft plan and provide invaluable feedback to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with the unique needs of our community.

The draft CWPP will be available for review and comment **starting on August 28** on the Solano County website, located at <http://www.SolanoCounty.com/FireReady>. The public will have until September 18 to provide their feedback.

For more information or to ask any questions, please contact Project Manager, Vicky Amato, at VAmato@SWCA.com and/ or Assistant Project Manager, Montiel Ayala, at Montiel.Ayala@SWCA.com.

Revised Subsequent Draft Housing Element Now Available for Public Review



The city of Benicia has released a Revised Subsequent Draft Housing Element for 2023-2031 for review by interested members of the public. The Revised Subsequent Draft Housing Element incorporates minor clean-up revisions that were completed in response to the public comments received during the August 2, 2023 through August 9, 2023 public review period.

Revisions include changes made to Table 3-10, numbering typos, and other minor edits. The Revised Subsequent Draft Housing Element is available on the City website at www.ci.benicia.ca.us/housingelement.

Two versions of the Revised Subsequent draft are posted: a clean copy and a mark-up copy dated August 2023. The mark-up copy shows revisions to the Adopted Housing Element in grey highlight; other tracked changes are earlier revisions in the prior submittal to HCD.

Written comments are being accepted for a second comment period beginning on **August 17 through to 5pm on August 24**. Comments may be submitted via email to comdev@ci.benicia.ca.us or by mail to Planning Division, City of Benicia, 250 East L Street, Benicia, CA.

Cache Slough Public Access Recreation Action Plan

Solano County, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) are seeking public comment on the Draft Cache Slough Public Access Recreation Action Plan.

The Action Plan combines input from outreach and engagement activities with stakeholders in 2022 and 2023 with the goal of guiding

future County and State investments in feasible, safe, inclusive, and compatible recreation facilities within the Cache Slough region.

The Draft Action Plan is available on Solano County's website [here](#). To provide one or more comments, click on the link [here](#) to a Google Form. There are instructions on the first page, and you have the ability to provide up to five comments using the form. **The 30-day public review period will end September 13.**

Republic Services to perform route reviews

Don't worry if you see someone snooping through your garbage over the next few weeks. Through to September 1, Republic Services will be performing route reviews by flipping the lids of different waste containers and briefly inspect the interior for contamination. For the route review schedule, please visit fairfield.ca.gov/bins.

MTC-ABAG Survey on Plan Bay Area 2050+ open now



How has daily life changed, in terms of getting around, and where you work and live? Staff from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments are seeking community input on how life in the Bay Area has changed as the region emerges from the pandemic.

Community input will help staff develop the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Blueprint. Plan Bay Area 2050+ is the limited and focused update to Plan Bay Area 2050, the adopted long-range regional plan. Plan Bay Area 2050+ will refine select plan strategies to integrate the lessons of the last three years.

To complete the survey, click [here](#).

Food 4 Less hiring



Food 4 Less is hiring for its Fairfield Store which is scheduled to open in October. Interviews will be held at the Workforce Development Board of Solano County, 500 Chadbourne Road - Suite A, every **Wednesday**

and **Thursday** from 10am to 230pm.

Benicia Lyft rides



The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) will pay a portion of your Lyft rides throughout the City of Benicia, and to Springstowne Center in Vallejo. These rides are valid only to specific destinations and between the hours of 6am-9pm for Benicia residents. To qualify you must be an older adult (65+), a veteran, or ADA eligible.

If your pickup or drop-off is outside the specified areas, the discount is not valid. More questions? Call the mobility call center: [1-800-535-6883](tel:1-800-535-6883)

Virtual Workshops: "Investing in the Future of Bay Area Housing"

The [Bay Area Housing Finance Authority \(BAHFA\)](#) will host an upcoming [virtual workshop](#) about a proposed regional housing measure. BAHFA was created to help solve the affordable housing shortage and is considering a bond measure for the November 2024 ballot to invest in building and preserving affordable homes.

The virtual workshop will provide attendees with the opportunity to learn about the proposed bond, provide feedback and ask questions.

- Workshop -**Thursday, August 24 from 12 to 1:30pm**. [Join via Zoom video](#) Meeting ID: 819 8658 6787 Passcode: 683004 Join via phone (one tap mobile): +16699006833,,81986586787#,,,,*683004# Join via phone: (408) 638-0968

For those unable to attend, a meeting recording will be posted to mtc.ca.gov/HousingBond. Note that the presentation content of both workshops will be the same. For questions, please contact Beth Frankland at bfrankland@bayareametro.gov.

Storytime at Children's Wonderland



The Solano County Library will offer story time each **Thursday from 11 to 11:45 am** at Children's Wonderland, 360 Glenn Street in the city of Vallejo. This is a free program offered to the community. The program runs through October 26.

I Love My County Because... art contest

In an effort to bolster civic education and educate communities on



the role of county government, the National Association of Counties (NACo) is hosting the 2023 "I Love My County Because..." art contest.

NACo and county leaders are spreading the word about county roles and responsibilities, which are often unknown or misunderstood. By inviting children and young adults K-12 to create artwork for the 2024 "Counties Matter" calendar, NACo hopes to raise awareness about programs and services that impact people's lives every day.

Submissions will be accepted through to **September 29 at 11:59pm**. Students must submit their artwork for consideration [at this link](#). For more information, click [here](#).

Free HIV testing



The Solano Pride Center offers free HIV testing every **1st and 3rd Tuesday** of the month from 4 to 7pm, at 1234 Empire Street, Suite 1560, in the City of Fairfield.

Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging survey

We need your input! The Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging (AAA) needs your input. The AAA is conducting a Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults to better understand the contributions that adults make to their communities, as well as the needs they have and challenges they experience. The feedback will help ensure that AAA policies and programs align with the community's values. To take the survey, click [here](#).

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging at (707) 784-8960.

Updates from around Solano County

Volunteer opportunities with the city of Vallejo

The city of Vallejo is asking residents to help collect ideas from fellow residents at the city's Participatory Budgeting booth. Volunteers can stay under the PB canopy or venture out at events with a clipboard and Idea collection slips and approach Vallejo residents to survey them about how we can make Vallejo an even better place. Click on the event link below to select your preferred date and time slot.



- [Farmer's Market, Saturday August 26](#)
- [Hot August Nights](#)

Restaurant Week is coming

Love food? Then you're in for a treat this October. Mark your calendars for Restaurant Week in the city of Fairfield from October 1-7. During the week, restaurants throughout Fairfield will be featuring special deals, menu items, and discounts for you to enjoy at no charge.

For a full list of participating restaurants (updated daily), click [here](#).

Vallejo ferry basin dredging begins August 29



Vallejo ferry riders will notice a temporary change soon as basin dredging is set to begin on August 29. The temporary terminal will be installed in the week prior to dredging and will be located within a few hundred feet of the permanent Vallejo Ferry Terminal. Passengers can use the same transit connections and parking lots as usual, and the ferry schedule will not change. The project will take about a month to complete.

The basin was last dredged in the fall of 2021.

STA Pedestrian Advisory Committee has open positions



The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) Pedestrian Advisory Committee is currently looking for members to represent the following:

- City of Dixon
- City of Vacaville
- City of Suisun City
- County of Solano
- Member-at-Large
- Member-at Large (Solano Community College)

The STA Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) advises the STA on the development of pedestrian facilities as an active mode of transportation in Solano County. The PAC is responsible for making funding recommendations for Solano Countywide pedestrian projects and participates in the development and review of comprehensive pedestrian plans. Each of the seven (7) cities (Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville, and Vallejo); County of Solano; Three (3) Members-at-Large. The PAC generally meets on the first Thursday of each even month.

To apply for any of the open positions, find the form [here](#) and email to the STA staff lead for the PAC - Associate Planner, Kathrina Gregana, at kgregana@sta.ca.gov

Upcoming events in Solano County

Tomato & Vine Festival returns



Get ready to celebrate the Annual Tomato & Vine Festival organized by the City of Fairfield's Parks & Recreation Department on **Saturday, August 19th from 11am to 7 pm and Sunday, August 20 from 11am to 5pm.**

One of the highlights of the festival is the incredible variety of tomatoes for purchase. With over 20 different varieties, tomato enthusiasts will be in paradise. Additionally, you'll have an opportunity to sample various tomatoes from 12 to 4 pm and those with a competitive spirit will enjoy the tomato eating contest on Saturday. On Sunday car enthusiasts can enjoy a captivating car show and stunning collection of vehicles. For more information, click [here](#).

Nikki Basch Davis to speak at the Benicia Public Library



Nikki Basch will discuss her powerful memoir, *The Second Scar* on **Wednesday, August 23 at 7pm**. The book begins in the years before WWII disrupts her family's peaceful Latvian hometown and follows the family as they escape the Nazis and the Soviet occupiers. Reservations must be made in advance as attendance is limited. Sign up at nikkibaschdavis.eventbrite.com.

Bookshop Benicia will be at the event to sell Nikki's book. For further information, visit www.benicialibrary.org. The Benicia Public Library is located at 150 East L Street.

Museum of History Benicia Grand Opening



There will be a grand opening of the Museum of History Benicia from **11am to 3pm on Saturday, August 26** at 900 East 2nd Street in downtown Benicia. For more information, visit [here](#).

NAMI speaker series

The National Alliance on Mental Illness Solano County Speaker Series continues on **Monday, August 28, from 6:30 to 7:30pm**. The speaker will be Lisa U'Ren, who is on the Board of Directors for



NAMI Solano County and serves as committee chair for Local Advocacy in the County. She is also a Coordinator with Solano County's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. She has been a Family-to Family program instructor for 3 years. She will be discussing CIT International Conference Highlights.

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program is a community partnership of law enforcement, mental health and addiction professionals, individuals who live with mental illness and/or addiction disorders, and their families, with the goal to improve community responses to mental health crises.

For more information, email info@namisolano.org or visit www.namisolano.org

The event can be viewed over ZOOM:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81570599385?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81570599385?pwd=V0FqNkdUMzM5aVlnVWRLOGRsaHBpZz09)
[pwd=V0FqNkdUMzM5aVlnVWRLOGRsaHBpZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81570599385?pwd=V0FqNkdUMzM5aVlnVWRLOGRsaHBpZz09)
Meeting ID: 815 7059 9385 Password: 102283

Join a Community Open House for the Future of the Benicia Public Library

The Benicia Public Library has been crafting a strategic plan to envision the future of the library. The community is invited to view the plan

on **Friday, September 8** from **6 to 8pm** at the Benicia Public Library, 150 East L Street. To RSVP, click [here](#)



An afternoon of poetry

AN AFTERNOON OF POETRY

FEATURING CALIFORNIA STATE POET LAUREATE, LEE HERRICK

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023
2 PM - 4 PM

Fairfield Civic Center Library
1150 Kentucky Street, Fairfield

Join us for this special event!

Solano County LIBRARY

FAIRFIELD

“An Afternoon of Poetry,” featuring California State Poet Laureate Lee Herrick will be held from **2 to 4pm, Saturday, September 9** at the Fairfield Civic Center Library, Library Meeting Room, 1150 Kentucky Street, Fairfield. Lee will be doing a reading. Q&A session will follow. His books will be available for sale.

General Plan Study Session open to public on September 12

The city of Fairfield will be holding a General Plan Study Session on Tuesday, September 12, in the Council Chamber at 6 pm.



This meeting is the latest in a series of Study Sessions to establish the City Council’s vision for future land uses throughout the City of Fairfield. The Study Session will focus on future land uses in Cordelia. The City Council’s vision will inform the development of a Preferred Plan, which will form the basis of the General Plan Update, Climate Action Plan, and Environmental Impact Report. Following the establishment of the Preferred Plan, staff will develop General Plan Elements and policies.

Members of the public are invited to attend and public comment will be allowed. The meeting will also be recorded and livestreamed on Comcast Channel 26 or at www.fairfield.ca.gov/live.

Visit the Fairfield Forward website at www.fairfieldforward.com to learn more about the General Plan Update. The Fairfield City Council chambers are located at 1000 Webster Street.

The Belle of Amherst



The Benicia Public Library will host a special performance of *The Belle of Amherst* by William Luce, starring Shiv Harris, directed by Carlene Coury, on **Saturday, September 16 at 2pm**, at the Benicia Public Library, 150 East L Street.

This one-woman show depicting the life of Emily Dickinson opened on Broadway in 1976. The performance at the Library will be

a shortened version of the original. The performance will take place in front of the fireplace at the west end of the Library.

Touro University California’s Success with Diabetes September 2023 session



The Diabetes Services at Touro University California will provide a free weekly program to help you learn how to live a healthier life with diabetes

starting **September 22**. In this free interactive 6-session program, you will learn how to understand your lab values, medication management, and exercises of all skill and age levels. To register,

click [here](#). For more information, email mramsey2@touro.edu or call (707) 638-5970.

Events I attended this week

Saturday, August 12, I attended the Peddler's Fair event in Benicia. I bought 7 pairs of earrings and 3 Halloween outside decorations. Saw friends and the weather was perfect.

For lunch, I attended the Sudie M. Smith foundation luncheon. This event raises money to help our youth who are pursuing a career in healthcare or medicine. It is always a fun event.

Tuesday night, August 15, I attended the Benicia city Council meeting. Congratulations to Mario Giuliani and his new job. Your speech was perfect. Everyone in Benicia must work together to overcome the challenges the city has.

Wednesday, August 16, I was doubled book. I want to thank my son, Seth, who attended the League of women's Voter's event with Shirley Weber, California's Secretary of State.

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

Shirley Weber, California's Secretary of State, participated in a League of women's Voter's event this week. From left to right: Suisun Councilmember Amit Pal, Seth Brown, Vacaville Councilmember Sarah Chapman, and Brian Travis, chief of the Department of Public Safety at Solano Community College.



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.