



August 11, 2023

SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER



[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

- [Information this week](#)
- [Public notices](#)
- [Updates from around Solano County](#)
- [Upcoming events in Solano County](#)
- [Events I attended this week](#)
- [Looking for a job? Consider these links](#)
- [Newsletter photo](#)

Fairfield wants to annex county parcels

This is a letter to inform my constituents about the information sent out on Wednesday from the Solano Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). The city of Fairfield is looking to annex three county parcels: A portion of Pittman Road (the land next to the new storage unit), the proposed apartments on the open land on Sunset between E. Travis Blvd and E-Tabor. Behind the land is Grange Middle School, and the church on E-Travis Blvd, turn right, the land is on the left right before the RR crossing.

I had a meeting with the LAFCO executive director and told him I was not very happy about how this item was handled. Having this phase one issue labeled Pittman Road with a church and apartments made no sense to me. Having this item come without any prior knowledge especially after the meeting several weeks ago at the Fairfield City Council where is sounded to me that the city wants to annex Suisun Valley

(Mankas corner area) and then the part of agriculture land that is my district makes me very leery, let alone finding out that 400 homes are still being discussed to be built inside the quarry on Nelson Hill. (I first heard of this seven years ago and thought the idea had died.)

(707) 784-7485

Area Agency on Aging

(707) 784-8960

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

Here are the rules: Government Code 56375.3: states that an island annexation initiated by a city must be approved by LAFCO and protest proceeding are waived if the following requirements are met: (Island meeting the property is alone)

- Annexation is proposed by resolution of the annexing city.
- The island is 150 acres or less in size.
- The island is surrounded or substantially surrounded by the annexing city or by the annexing city and adjacent cities.
- The island is not a gated community where services are currently provided by a community services district.
- The island is substantial developed or developing based on the availability of public utilities, presence of public improvements or the presence of physical improvements on the parcels within the area.
- The island is not prime ag land as defined in Government Code Section 56064.
- The island is receiving benefits from the annexing city or will benefit from the city.
- The island was not created Jan. 1, 2000.

Furthermore, California Legislature enacted special legislation in 2001 (Government Code Section 56375.3) to make it easier for cities to annex certain unincorporated islands. The law allows cities to annex islands through a streamlined process that does not require protest proceedings or elections, provided the island meets the above eight requirements and is 150 acres or less in size.

Please click this link.

[Commission Meeting: August 14, 2023 - Solano LAFCO](#)

HOW TO START:

- Click the agenda packet. Agenda: Item #7, Public Hearing a) LAFCO Project No. 2023-05 Fairfield island Annexation Phase Road, Blessed Baptist Church, Sunset apartments.
- Upper right-hand corner says Agenda Packet page 23 out of 338. (A-PR Pittman Road) The item is the land next to the new storage unit.
- B-SA (on the first left picture) are the proposed apartments on the open land on Sunset between E. Travis Blvd and E-Tabor. Behind the land is Grange Middle School.
- C-BBC is the church. E-Travis Blvd, turn right, the land is on the left right before the RR crossing.

It is my understanding that this Phase 1 was titled Pittman Road because that was the first parcel to be put into the city limits. The other two just followed as part of this package.

This whole issue should have been written better, my opinion. Also, I have been asked to be notified on issues like this. I do my best to keep on top of issues, but I do have 3 cities. Please, if you know of anything that I should be aware of, let me know.

I hope this information helps. Monica

Racist & Hate Vandalism



This is sickening. The Solano County Sheriff's Office is investigating racist and hateful vandalism at the Thompson's Corner Saloon on Cordelia Road, in unincorporated Fairfield. Deputies responded and observed swastikas and racial slurs written in red spray paint along the outer walls of the business. This is unacceptable. If you have any information about this, please contact the Sheriff's Office at (707) 784-7061.

Valero violations

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced Thursday that it had discovered continued violations at the Valero Benicia refinery during its investigation into years of toxic releases. To read more, click [here](#).

Maui

My heart goes out to the people of Maui, which was hit by a series of wildfires. Learn how to help the victims [here](#).

Mario Giuliani named Benicia City Manager



I want to take a moment and officially congratulate Mario Giuliani on his promotion to Benicia City Manager. As you may know, Mario has been serving as interim city manager since late February following the retirement of City Manager Erik Upson. I know Mario will continue to do a great job!

Information this week

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

Need a ride to the doctor?

You can now get a ride to and from your doctor visits at no charge. As a Kaiser Permanente Medicare health plan member, you can get a ride to and from your appointments at no cost. Your plan covers up to 24 one-way trips (50 miles per trip) per calendar year.

To schedule a ride for rideshare, taxi, or private transportation service, call 1-877-930-1477 (TTY 711). You can also schedule online at medicaltrip.net or download the MTM Link Member app. To download the app on your device, visit the App Store (Apple) or Google Play (Android) and search for MTM Link Member App.

For wheelchair van or gurney van transportation service, call 1-833-226-6760.

Request your ride at least 3 business days (Monday through Friday) before your appointment. If you have an urgent last-minute appointment, call as soon as you can.

You can get rides for doctor appointments, medical services such as lab or X-ray, and picking up medications or medical equipment. This benefit is limited to Kaiser Medicare members who had coverage through an employer or who were also on Medi-Cal.

Wish of a Lifetime

Wish of a Lifetime from AARP grants wishes that help older adults connect with their passions, their purpose, or the people they love when they cannot do so on their own. Every wish we fulfill inspires people of all ages to live their best lives.

Wish of a Lifetime Eligibility requirements include being age 65 or older, unable to fulfill the wish on their own, in good enough health to experience the wish, and be able to obtain approval from a doctor, if necessary.

To submit a wish, click [here](#).

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.

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.

How does the PACT Act help me?

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022 is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

As of August 10, 2022, a long list of new health conditions are presumed to be service-connected due to various in-service toxic exposures. See the full list [here](#). The Special Enrollment Period closes on October 1.

To file a claim, click [here](#) or call 800-698-2411 (TTY: 711)

Public notices

Child Support Services to donate school-ready backpacks to children and families

In recognition of August 2023 as Child Support Awareness Month, the Solano County Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) will donate 100 back to school

ready backpacks to their customers, complete with supplies. The backpacks will come with several essential school supplies, including crayons, rulers, pencils, pencil sharpeners, pocket folders, spiral notebooks, scissors and glue sticks. As a special addition this year, every backpack will come with its very own Beanie Baby – a special friend to help start things off right.

Beginning **Tuesday, August 1**, customers with an open child support case can come by the DCSS office, located at 675 Texas Street, Suite 5700 (fifth floor) in Fairfield anytime between the hours of 8am and 5pm, Monday – Friday to pick up a free backpack, while supplies last. One backpack per child will be provided. There are a variety of colors of backpacks to choose from.

Visit the Solano County DCSS website at <https://www.SolanoCounty.com/Depts/DCSS> for more information and for clients to link directly to DCSS support professionals. Direct any questions to ChildSupport@SolanoCounty.com, text (707) 241-4201 and by phone at (866) 901-3212.

Exploring the Future of Electric Rates in California webinar

Assembly Bill 205 (2022) removed the existing cap on fixed charges for residential electric rates, required the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to consider a tiered fixed charge option based on income (so lower-income ratepayers receive higher savings) by July 2024, and to move forward with creating a framework to enable demand flexibility. Thus far, the CPUC has approved new Rate Design Principles—updating longstanding precedents—and crafted principles for Demand Flexibility, setting the foundation for the proceeding to move forward.

Following the creation of Guiding Principles, the CPUC solicited proposals for the first version of a residential fixed charge that includes: which rate components should be included in a fixed charge, how many income brackets are appropriate, and how to implement such a fixed charge. The Clean Coalition advanced a reasonable and easy-to-implement fixed charge; almost every other party proposed a significantly more expensive fixed charge that would require major changes to implement. Given that electric rates are unaffordable—and still skyrocketing—in California, it is important to understand the future of rate design and what the path to electrification looks like.

The webinar will take place on **Tuesday, August 15 from 11am to noon.**

This webinar will cover:

- The background of the Demand Flexibility proceeding and why a Fixed Charge is being proposed based on personal income.
- The Clean Coalition's modest fixed fee proposal and the methodology behind it.
- Why rates should primarily be volumetric in nature and what the main drivers of increasing rates are.
- How high fixed charge proposals would result in net losses for most residential customers and upend the incentive to conserve energy.

- The key correlation between rates and electrification; improper rate reform could render electrification financially infeasible.

Where a fixed charge fits in with upcoming rate reform and California's pathway to achieving electrification.

To register, click [here](#).

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

The [Bay Area Housing Finance Authority \(BAHFA\)](#) will host two upcoming [virtual workshops](#) 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.

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

Virtual Workshops:

- **Workshop #1** Wednesday, August 16 from 5:30 to 7pm. [Join via Zoom video](#) Meeting ID: 879 0781 6698 Passcode: 307329 Join via phone (one tap mobile): +14086380968,,87907816698#,,,,*307329# Join via phone: (408) 638-0968
- **Workshop #2** 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.

Poet Laureate invites public to write a poem to an art piece

Fairfield Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce, in collaboration with the Fairfield-Suisun City Visual Arts Association, invites the public to write a poem to an art piece from the Solano Town Center Gallery's Exhibit "Blank," which will run from **August 9 – September 23**. An art reception and poetry reading will be held on **Saturday, August 19 from 4 to 6pm** inside the Solano Town Center Gallery, 1350 Travis Blvd., #D-8, Fairfield.

Art can be seen at the Gallery or at [Solano Town Center | fsvaa \(fvaa-arts.org\)](#). Send Suzanne your poem in a word doc with a picture of art on the poem by **August 17** to fairfieldpoetlaurate@gmail.com. Please keep your poem to 42 lines or less.

Plan Bay Area 2050+: Draft Blueprint Technical Workshops

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments will host a [Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Blueprint](#) technical workshop. Given Plan Bay Area 2050's [solid foundation of 35 strategies](#), the Draft Blueprint phase for Plan Bay Area 2050+ will focus on making targeted refinements to select plan strategies.

At the workshop, staff will provide an overview of the Plan Bay Area 2050+ timeline and process. The goal of the workshop is to hear how the last three years have shaped the "new normal" for participant's organizations; how your organization's priorities and concerns may have shifted; and to solicit feedback on anticipated Draft Blueprint strategic refinements.

There will be two opportunities to participate:

- **Workshop 1 (Virtual)** — [Register Here](#) Wednesday, August 30, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Zoom link will be sent after registration
- **Workshop 2 (In person)** — [Register Here](#) Thursday, September 7, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Bay Area Metro Center Yerba Buena Conference Room, 1st floor 375 Beale Street, San Francisco

Due to the interactive nature of the workshops, attendance will be capped at 80 participants per workshop. Note that the content will be the same for both workshops. *Participants should register for **only one** workshop.*

For more information, visit planbayarea.org/meetings-and-events/summer-2023-engagement/plan-bay-area-2050-draft-blueprint-partner-engagement.

For questions, contact Chirag Rabari, Plan Bay Area 2050+ Project Manager, at crabari@bayareametro.gov.

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)



Pediatric vaccine resource for families

Solano County Public Health, First 5 Solano, Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC), Ole Health, La Clinica, Help Me Grow Solano and Child Start have developed and launched a new website for parents and families seeking information about childhood immunizations. The website, www.SolanoVaxFacts.com, serves as a public resource for information on early childhood immunizations, including facts about vaccines, where to get vaccinated, payment assistance, and more. Community members can also download a vaccine schedule that details the timeline for necessary immunizations for children aged two months through 16 years.

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.

iPad distribution

Any older adults at risk of social isolation and don't already have an internet connected device and cannot afford to purchase a tablet to connect with family, friends, or telehealth appointments, may be eligible for a free device.

Devices are limited to older adults (60+) or adults with permanent disabilities who are at risk and do not have access to a device. Those interested should contact the Aging and Disability Resource Connection at (707) 200-7116. Callers need to leave a message so an intake coordinator can return the call and administer a brief intake questionnaire to determine if the person is eligible to receive a device. Devices are reserved for the most at-risk individuals as numbers are limited.

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.

Food 4 Less hiring



FOOD 4 LESS

**WE ARE HIRING
FOR OUR FAIRFIELD STORE!**

OPENING IN OCTOBER!

Interviews will be held at the
Workforce Development Board of Solano County:
500 Chadbourne Road | Suite A | Fairfield
Every Wednesday & Thursday | 10am-2:30pm

August 30th-October 13th

100% Employee Owned | Affordable Medical,
Dental & Vision Insurance | Entry level roles between
\$15-\$18 per hour based on experience | Company paid
Life Insurance | Employee Stock Ownership | Growth
Opportunities | 401(k) Plans

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
OF SOLANO COUNTY



The WDB is an EO/AA/ADA Employer/Program. TDD Relay #1-800-735-2922. Auxiliary Aids and Services are available upon sufficient notice to individuals with disabilities.

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 2:30pm.

Updates from around Solano County

Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity looking for next office manager

The Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity is looking to hire an energetic, detail-oriented individual interested in being office manager. This full-time position is responsible for organizing and coordinating office operations and procedures to ensure organizational effectiveness and efficiency. This is a full-time, salaried position. To learn more and/or apply, click [here](#).

SCC Vallejo computer labs get a reboot

Are you interested in animation and graphic designs? Solano Community College's Vallejo branch is offering classes using their brand-new computers to teach animation and graphic design. For more information, click [here](#).

Gas meter maintenance work

PG&E will be conducting important gas meter maintenance work throughout our service area by replacing a device that is attached to the gas meter, which communicates gas usage to PG&E. Crews will also ensure customers continue to receive accurate and timely bills.

Work will take 30 minutes or less to complete and gas service should not be interrupted. Safe and clear access to the meter is needed. If crews cannot access the meter, customers will need to set up an appointment. Work will be conducted at no cost to the customer.

For more information about this important maintenance work, click [here](#) or call 1-866-743-0263.

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Three-Year Plan FY 2023-27

Solano County Behavioral Health (SCBH) announced that the MHSA Three-Year Plan FY 2023-27 has been posted for 30-day Public Comment on the MHSA website at https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/bh/mhsa/ann_plan/default.asp. The Public Comment period will be held through to August 15. Public Comments can be submitted to the SCBH MHSA Unit at SolanoMHSA@solanocounty.com.

The 3-Year Plan will be presented at a Public Hearing at the August convening of the Mental Health Advisory Board (MHAB) meeting scheduled for Tuesday August 15, 2023 from 3:30-4:30pm. The link for the Public Hearing will be posted on the MHAB page at <https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/mhs/mhab.asp>. The Public Hearing is another opportunity to submit public comment and represents the closure of the public comment period.

Following the presentation at the MHAB, SCBH will update the document to include written responses to the public comments received during the 30 day period and at the Public Hearing. The final 3-Year Plan will be presented to the Solano County Board of Supervisors in August 22, 2023 for approval before being submitted to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and the Department of Health Care Services.

SolanoCares.org Resource Guide

The Solano Cares website is a one stop resource guide with topics ranging from COVID-19, seniors, children, families, and adults, disabilities, veterans, public health, and behavioral health. Recently added to the Solano Cares website is the Solano Senior Fraud Prevention Center, www.SolanoScamCenter.org, which addresses financial abuse among seniors and allows users to report financial abuse. Check out our Solano Cares website by going to: <https://www.solanocares.org/>

I would ask each reader to try the resource guide and let me know your thoughts. -
Monica.

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:

- [Second Friday Art Walk, August 11](#)
- [Farmer's Market, Saturday August 12](#)
- [Farmer's Market, Saturday August 26](#)
- [Hot August Nights – Thursdays in August starting on August 10.](#)

The city also needs help entering anonymous survey data into an online google form. This is a great opportunity for someone that wants to help from the comfort of their home. You will coordinate with City Staff a day and time to pick up your stack of surveys. Staff will email you the link of the google form and complete this task by Sunday, August 13. Click the link below to indicate which day you would like to stop by at City Hall to pick up your stack of surveys.

- [Data Entry Opportunity- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E44A5A823A5FD0-data>](#)

Shelter Report - July Statistics



The Humane Society of the North Bay had a productive July as 11 dogs and 4 cats were adopted. There were also 5 dogs and 11 cats that were transferred to an adoption-guaranteed partners. Finally, 3 dogs were returned to their respective owners.

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.

Volunteer drivers needed!

The Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Area 4 is looking for drivers 18 years of age or older willing to deliver meals from local restaurants to Meals on Wheels participants. To volunteer, call (530) 670-0033.

Upcoming events in Solano County

School Supplies and more

Each year, the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District coordinates a free Back to School Resource Fair for the community's most vulnerable students and families. This event is in partnership with Fairfield Police Department's Homeless Outreach Partnership Event (H.O.P.E.) and will take place at St. Mark's Church (1600 Union Ave, Fairfield) on **Saturday, August 12** from **10am to 1pm**. School supplies, food, drinks, and community resources will be provided.

Broken By Violence presents Black Men's Mental Health Matters

Broken By Violence creates healing spaces for communities impacted by violence. Join them this **Saturday, August 12** from **5 to 7pm**, at 1652 West Texas Street for their free community event "Black Men's Mental Health Matters", which is designed to support and develop comradery amongst black men. They are working to change the narrative of Black-on-Black crime by supporting Black on Black Brotherhood. To register, click [here](#).

Authors to speak at Benicia library

Karen Phillips and Suzy Quenneville will speak about their books, *A Deadly Combo* and *Dream* on **Tuesday, August 15** at **7pm** in the Dona Benicia Room of the Library, located at 150 E L Street.

Karen Phillips is the author of *A Deadly Combo* which is a story about sisters Rocky and Bridget who are on vacation at a trailerfest when they stumble over a corpse. Suzy is a Canadian-born author of multiple novels. As a longtime Career Readiness instructor, she applies her extensive background to craft tales of love, loss, perseverance and triumph. Suzy weaves intense narratives infused with relatable characters. Come hear an interesting, fun discussion about these books, and how the authors gather their thoughts to write. Books will be available for sale. To learn more, click [here](#).

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.

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?pwd=V0FqNkdUMzM5aVlnVWRLOGRsaHBpZz09>
Meeting ID: 815 7059 9385 Password: 102283

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

Wednesday, August 9, I attended the Mare Island neighborhood watch meeting. Ice cream was on the menu as well as the CFD issued. Everyone met at the St. Peter's Chapel. If you have not been able to take a tour, book one.

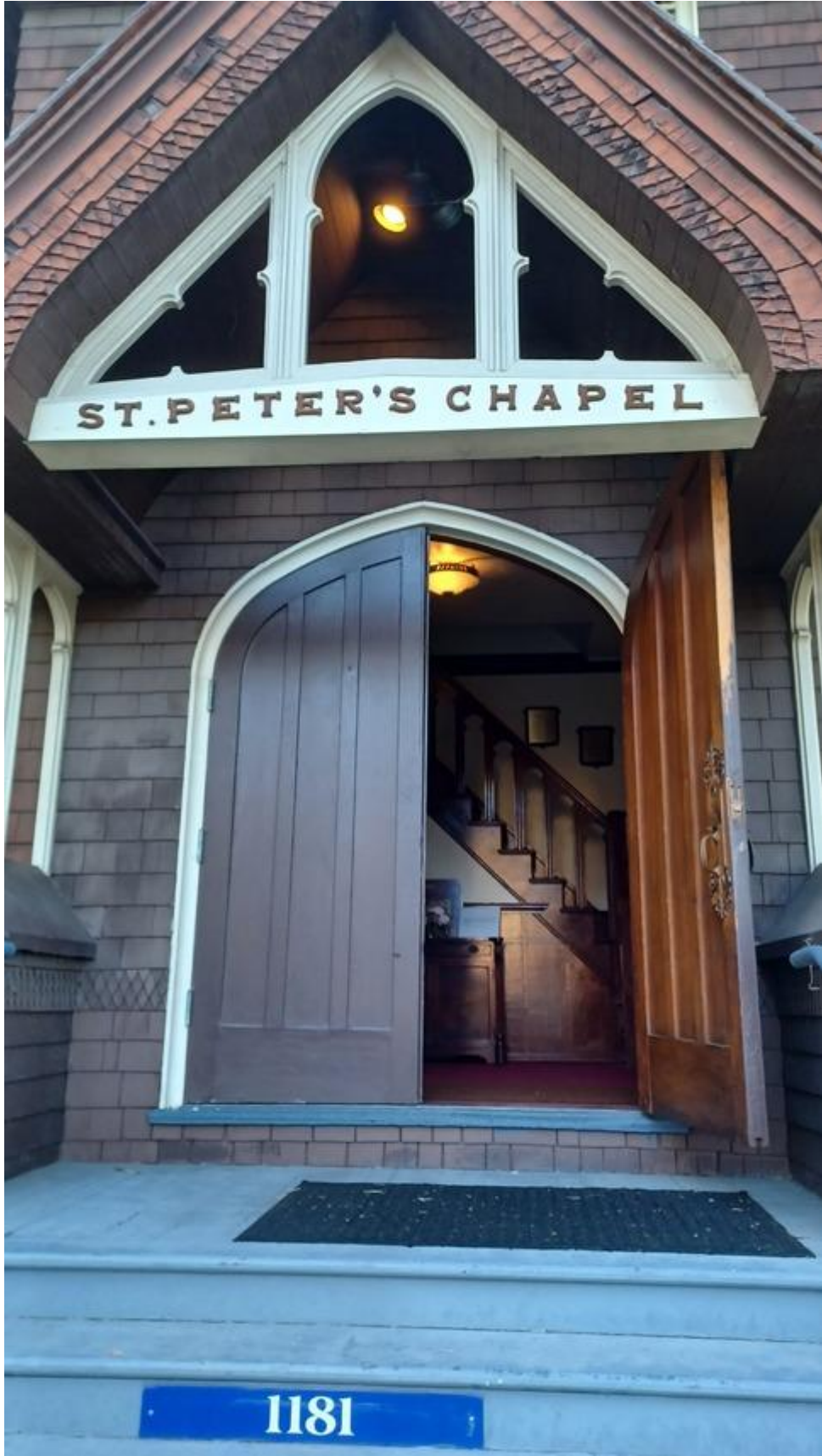


Photo: Monica Brown.

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

Vallejo's first day with students is Monday Aug. 15. Benicia's first day with students is Monday Aug. 15. Fairfield-Suisun's first day with students is Aug. 16. Please be careful when you are driving near a school. Students are excited about seeing their friends. Let's have a good and safe school year. Photo: Monica Brown.



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.