



August 4, 2023

SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER



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Information this week
Major pavement repair work



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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



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 tentatively scheduled on the weekends of **August 4, and August 18**. EB I-80 will be closed and traffic detoured beginning at the EB I-80/State Route-4 interchange in Hercules. Closures will start **Fridays at 9pm.** and conclude on the following **Mondays 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.

(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

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

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.

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.

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.

Executive Officer's Report

The State of California Regional Water Quality Control Board for the San Francisco Bay Region has released the latest executive officer's report. Read it [here](#).

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

Benicia's Subsequent Draft Housing Element available for public review



The City of Benicia has released a Subsequent Draft Housing Element for 2023-2031 for review by interested members of the public. The Subsequent Draft Housing Element incorporates revisions requested by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in their response letter dated April 4, 2023. The Subsequent Draft Housing Element is available on the City website at www.ci.benicia.ca.us/housingelement.

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

Written comments are being accepted for a seven-day period concluding at **5pm on Wednesday, August 9** and may be submitted via email to comdev@ci.benicia.ca.us or by mail to Planning Division, City of Benicia, 250 East L Street.

Link21's Online Open House

Link21 is offering an on-demand open house to learn more about possible train service improvements in the region. To view, click [here](#).

Link21 is a long-range transportation program sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) and the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (Capitol Corridor) to transform the train network serving the 21-county Northern California Megaregion, which includes the greater San Francisco Bay Area, the Monterey Bay area, the Sacramento area, and the Northern San Joaquin Valley.

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.

California Public Utilities Commission webinar

The California Public Utilities Commission is hosting an informational webinar on **Wednesday, August 9 from 10 to 11:30am** for the Equity and Access (E&A) Grant Program. The E&A Grant Program offers \$30 million to support community-based organizations (CBOs) and California Tribes in enhancing access to clean energy programs for underserved communities. [Register in advance](#) for remote access via WebEx or phone. CPUC staff will guide attendees through the application process and address inquiries. Find more information on the grant program at www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants.

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 \(fvaa-arts.org\)](http://SolanoTownCenter|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.

Fairfield 101 Civic Academy returns September 7th

The City of Fairfield is planning a Fairfield 101 – Civic Academy for Fairfield residents starting on **Thursday, September 7**. If you are interested, you can get an application online at fairfield.ca.gov/fairfield101. There are only 25 spots available, and they fill up quickly, so if you are interested, apply soon! Applications are due **Thursday, August 31**.

The Civic Academy is a 10-week interactive program designed to share how local government works, while also giving residents first-hand exposure to the inside of City departments and a chance to discuss current issues with community leaders. The program also provides residents with an opportunity to gain insights on how to become more involved at the local government level.

To apply, click [here](#). For more information, contact Esther Beavers for more information at estherbeavers@fairfield.ca.gov or call (707) 428-7402.

CDBG 101 Workshop Aug 10



The City of Fairfield Housing Services Department will be hosting a CDBG 101 program workshop for non-profit organizations on **Thursday, August 10, from 2 to 4pm** at 1000 Kentucky St., Lakeside Room A. The workshop will provide information about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and upcoming application process.

The CDBG Program exists to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments through expanding economic opportunities, principally for low-to-moderate income persons.

At the workshop, staff will provide an overview of the CDBG Program, guidelines, expectations, and reporting requirements. Attendees will receive detailed information on the current state of the CDBG Program and technical assistance to prepare them to apply for CDBG funding with the City of Fairfield. Registration is encouraged and walk-ins are welcome.

For additional information about the CDBG Program, or to register for the workshop, click [here](#).

Draft Removal Action Workplan



The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is sending out this Community Update to let the community know about Phase 2 of the investigation and proposed cleanup at the

700 Parc on Main Site (Site), Operable Unit 2 (OU2). The Site consists of multiple Operable Units (OU); OU1 North, located at 701 Catherine St, OU1 South, located at 325 Wilson Street and OU2 located at 207 McClellan Street, Vacaville.

In April 2022, an environmental investigation was completed at the site and found lead and low levels of organochlorine pesticides in surface soils at various locations across the site. The contaminants of potential concern for OU-2 are lead, chlordane, dieldrin, dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene (DDE), and/or dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT). The contamination likely comes from the demolition of residential structures and buildings with lead paint and pest control activities. The proposed cleanup would include the excavation/removal of lead-contaminated soil from the site to allow for residential and commercial redevelopment.

Following environmental cleanup, the site is planned for development of a pedestrian oriented, mixed-use neighborhood. Historically used for agricultural purposes and cattle grazing, the site was developed as early as 1908 and has been used for commercial and residential purposes. Past commercial uses of the Site include a delicatessen, grocery store, feed store, automotive repair shop, and a construction laydown yard. Beginning in the 1990's buildings on the site were demolished. By 2006, the site was mostly vacant land.

The public comment period runs through to August 24. Send comments to Andrew Reimanis, DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826
Andrew.Reimanis@dtsc.gov

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

Mobile Crisis Services

The Solano Mobile Crisis Response Services program assists individuals who are in acute psychological crisis. They may be unable to care for themselves due to a severe mental illness or are in immediate danger of either harming themselves or others.

The program serves the cities of Fairfield, Suisun City, Vacaville, & Dixon. Mobile Crisis operates Monday through Friday, from 8:30am to 9pm.

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

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](#).

Solano Mobility Express Vanpool Pilot Program

The Solano Transportation Authority (STA), in partnership with Commute with Enterprise, presents the Solano Mobility Express Vanpool Pilot Program, traveling weekdays between the Vacaville Transportation Center and Sacramento, and between the Dixon Park & Ride and Sacramento.

There is a limited time introductory offer of \$50 for a monthly pass (regularly \$90) for riders traveling between Sacramento and Vacaville or Dixon. Solano Express Blue Line riders starting their commute in Vacaville or Dixon who purchased a monthly pass in the last six months and commute to Sacramento are eligible for the introductory price of \$50. Solano Express Blue Line riders who purchase a monthly pass and start their commute south of Vacaville can transfer in Vacaville to the Solano Mobility Express Vanpool for free.

For more information or to sign up, click [here](#) or call the Solano Mobility Call Center at (800) 535-6883.

Fairfield-Suisun Adult School Fall 2023 classes

Come and grow with the Fairfield-Suisun Adult School during the Fall 2023 school year! They are offering classes that include GED Preparation, Carpentry, Paraeducator, Welding, Automotive, and much more. For more information, click [here](#) or call (707) 421-4155.

Hearing on the Implementation of the California Master Plan for Aging

On Thursday, July 27, the Little Hoover Commission completed the first public hearing in its study on the implementation of the California Master Plan for Aging. The hearing helped to frame the state’s early

implementation efforts of the Master Plan for Aging and featured witnesses with differing perspectives on the issue. They were joined by:

Dr. Sarita Mohanty, President and CEO, The SCAN Foundation ([Written Testimony](#)). Dr. Fernando Torres-Gil, Professor of Social Welfare and Public Policy, and Director of the UCLA Center for Policy Research on Aging, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency. Susan DeMarois, Director, California Department of Aging ([Written Testimony](#)). Dr. Carrie Graham, Director, Long-term Services and Supports, Center for Health Care Strategies ([Written Testimony](#)) and Dr. Laura Carstensen, Director, Center for Longevity, Stanford ([Written Testimony](#)).

The Little Hoover Commission is America's only permanent, independent citizens commission working to improve state government. A nonpartisan oversight agency created in 1962, the Commission includes 13 Commissioners appointed by the Governor and legislative leaders. The Commission's mission is to investigate state operations and promote efficiency, economy and improved service.

To watch the public hearing, click [here](#).

Agriculture and the War in Ukraine one year later

Ukrainian agriculture and the world food system have been remarkably resilient in the face of continuing tragedy. Ukraine has continued to supply domestic and world consumers with food staples as governments and markets have rapidly adjusted supply chains to support the world's most vulnerable. To read more, click [here](#).

Updates from around Solano County

New traffic signal at Business Center Drive



Motorists driving on Business Center Drive may have noticed a newly constructed traffic signal near the Nova at Green Valley Apartments and the

North Bay Healthcare facility. The new signal was energized on Wednesday, July 26. The improvements are a requirement of the development and are intended to provide safe access to the site and mitigate potential traffic impact.

Red Top Road Project underway

Want to learn about upcoming improvements to Red Top Road? City of Fairfield Senior Civil Engineer Alvin Lei talks about upcoming improvements and provides a construction timeline in a YouTube video. Watch the video by clicking [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>](#)

Upcoming events in Solano County

Free compost giveaway



You are invited to a free compost giveaway on **Saturday, August 5 from 9am to 1pm** at the First Baptist Church, 1055 Southampton Road in the city of Benicia. Enter the parking lot from Turner Drive to access containers in the lower parking lot.

Bring your own containers (eight 5-gallon buckets work best). Only Benicia residents are eligible. Appointments are required to reduce waiting time. For more information, visit RepublicServices.com/BeniciaCA.

Have questions? Want to be added to the email reminder blast? Contact MKnutson@RepublicServices.com.

To make an appointment, click [here](#).

Backpack giveaway August 5!

The Fairfield Community Services Foundation is hosting its annual free backpack and food giveaway event on **August 5 from 10am to 12pm** at Bethel Community Church at 600 E. Tabor Ave. Volunteers are needed to fill the food bags for the event on August 4 at 8:30am at Bethel Community Church. Please contact Sean Quinn (Fairfield Community Services Foundation) at xsquinn@aol.com if interested!

The Peña Adobe Historical Society celebrates “Native American Heritage Day at the Adobe”

The Peña Adobe Historical Society will celebrate Native American Heritage on **Saturday, August 5 from 11am to 2pm**. Meet author Richard Burrill who has published seven books on Ishi, the last surviving member of the California Native American Yahi tribe. Ishi was discovered in 1911 in Oroville, CA and was taken to UC Berkeley where anthropologists studied him. Burrill's newest book “Unvanquished: Ishi's Story of Survival, Resilience, and Forgiveness” details those first four months of Ishi's life in San Francisco from Sept. 4, 1911 to Dec. 31, 1911.

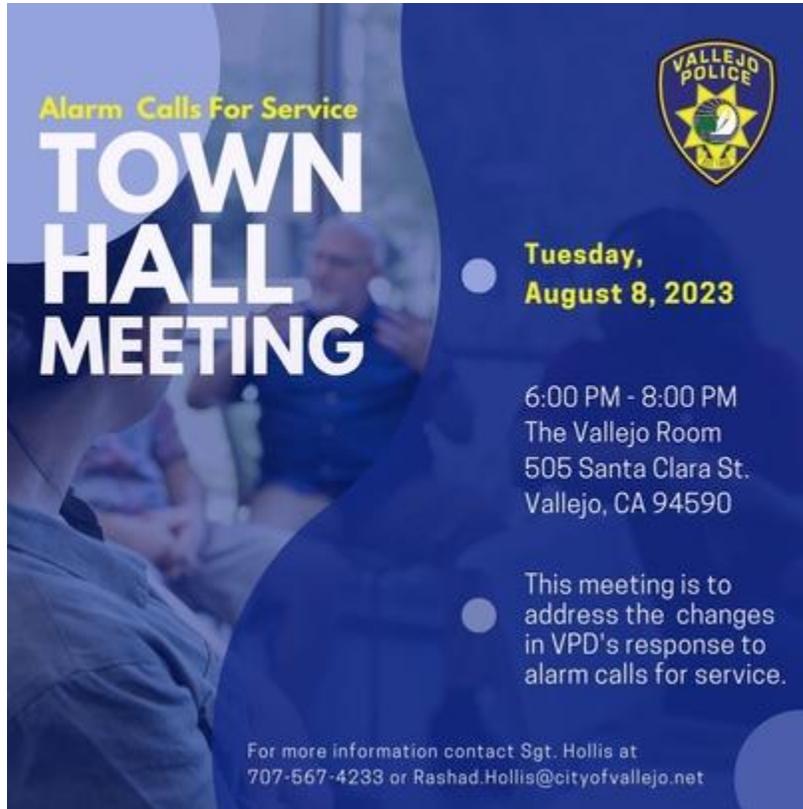
The Peña Adobe Regional Park is located off I-80, left of the Lagoon Valley Park entrance. For questions call (707) 447-0518 or e-mail penaadobe@gmail.com.

City of Vallejo blood drive

The city of Vallejo will host a blood drive from **9am to 3pm, Tuesday, August 8** in the Vallejo Room, located on the First Floor of the JFK Library,

505 Santa Clara Street. Appointments are required and can be made by clicking [here](#).

Vallejo PD Town Hall



The Vallejo Police Department is hosting a Community Town Hall meeting on **Tuesday, August 8 from 6 to 8pm**. The meeting will be held at the Vallejo Room located on the First Floor of the JFK Library at 505 Santa Clara Street.

The department will host a community discussion on "Changes In Response to Alarm Calls" and the proposed changes to responding to alarm calls for service. Vallejo residents and stakeholders are encouraged to attend this upcoming town hall meeting. If you are not able to attend this meeting, there will be an additional town hall meeting held at a later date and time.

ARC Open House

"Take a Walk" in the ARC, Adult Recreation Center, on **Thursday August 10, 10am to 3pm** at 1200 Harry Price Drive in the city of Fairfield. The ARC is hosting a free open house event to showcase the wide range of fun activities available for individuals age 50 and older. Live entertainment will be featured, and you'll have the opportunity to attend educational lectures from senior resource organizations. Light refreshments will be

available, and boxed lunches will be available to purchase for \$10. For more information, click [here](#).

Teen painting at JFK Library



Local teens are invited to paint during the month of August at the JFK Library in the city of Vallejo. Each week will have its own theme. The first second session will take place at **5pm on Thursday, August**

10 with the theme being "like stained glass." The JFK Library is located at 505 Santa Clara Street.

Benicia PD town hall meeting on automated license plate reader system

The poster is for a presentation by the Benicia Police Department. It features a large gold and blue badge on the left with the text "SAFETY * COMMUNITY * INTEGRITY * LEADERSHIP * PROFESSIONALISM" and "BENICIA POLICE" in the center. To the right is a circular portrait of Chief Mike Greene in uniform, with his name and title below it. The top right corner contains the registration link: "Registration: HTTP://BIT.LY/BPDALPR WEBINAR". The bottom section, on a white background, displays the date "AUGUST | 10th | 2023" and time "6 - 7 p.m." along with a QR code.

Benicia Police Chief Mike Greene will provide a public presentation on the automated license plate reader system at **6pm., Thursday, August 10**. Chief Greene and his staff will share the successes and results of the

Automated License Plate Reader technology, its impact on crime in the city, and future plans.

In May 2021, the Benicia City Council approved the purchase and installation of 45 Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) within the city limits. ALPR software is a technology that uses cameras to automatically read license plate characters and other identifying characteristics of a vehicle (the vehicle make, model, color and unique identifiers). The cameras capture license numbers and transmits plate data to a database, which can run a check for stolen vehicles, Amber Alerts, Silver Alerts, missing persons and wanted people.

To register, click [here](#).

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.

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](#).

Events I attended this week

Saturday, July 29, I spent the afternoon in Benicia at the Waterfront Festival. The weather was perfect. I saw friends, bought two sets of earrings, had an ice cream cone, and sat in the shade listening to music. What a wonderful, relaxing afternoon. Thank you to the volunteers who help make this event for the Main Street Association a reality.

Tuesday night, August 1, was National Night Out. I attended events in Fairfield/Cordelia and Benicia. I enjoy being outside with the community. The weather was perfect. The highlight for me is always listening to the kids and how much they enjoy the fire truck.

Thursday, August 3, I spent the day with the Solano Resource Conservation District and the in-service training for the teachers. Many of you have read the articles in my newsletter about the free programs for students to take them out in the field, to teach them about our environment. Thursday was spent taking a boat ride on Lake Berryessa and learning about the different water projects and how water is moved around the state. The lake is here because decades ago, community members realized that having a staple water source would allow agriculture to grow in Solano County. Compared to last year, the Lake is at least 80% full. Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors heard from our agriculture commissioner about the latest crop and livestock report. The gross value of the agriculture production in 2022 was \$390,881,000. The ag commissioner is also responsible for pest prevention, issuing certificates for ag commodities to be exported to 41 countries, certified farmers' markets and weights and measures. The full report can be found [here](#).

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

Lake Berryessa. 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.