



April 14, 2023

SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER

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Information this week

PG&E bills could increase for some customers with new law

The three major power companies in California, which includes PG&E, have proposed a new law that would change monthly power bills. Under this law, what customers pay would be based on household income, which individual households would need to report to PG&E. The law would add a fixed monthly charge based on income in addition to electricity charge, which will fluctuate based on use but will be reduced. This may mean that lower-income households pay less for electricity while higher-income households would pay more. To read more about this proposed law, read [this article](#).

Please be aware of this proposed change. At the present time, not much more information is known beyond the July 2024 decision deadline. If this change is not something you agree with, please contact Senator Bill Dodd or Assemblywoman Lori Wilson and express your disagreement. If you hear or see anything about this law as it develops, please do not hesitate to contact my office with information.

Did you pay taxes on your middle-class tax refund by mistake? Here's what you can do



[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

If you reported your middle-class tax refund as income on your taxes, you can file an amended federal income tax return. As a reminder, the middle-class tax refund was not subject to federal taxes and should not be claimed as income. For more information, including instructions on how to submit an amended tax return, read [this article](#) from the Sacramento Bee.

Be aware of "scam phrases" in your Gmail accounts

To raise awareness about scammers posing as Google customer service, Google has made a list of scam phrases to watch out for in your Gmail accounts to help protect yourself against scams. This is a list of things Google would never ask for, including banking information (PIN numbers, account numbers, debit and credit card information) and personal information like social security numbers. For the full list, view [this article](#) from the U.S. Sun.

Highway 37 to become a toll road

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has proposed a rebuilding and widening of Highway 37. This would require making the highway a toll road. The project aims to begin construction in 2025 and finish in 2027; no tolls would be charged until the project is complete. If you would like to comment on this, there will be a public hearing with the California Transportation Commission on **Monday, April 24 from 5:30pm to 7pm** at the JFK Library in Vallejo. For more information, read Benicia Mayor Steve Young's [post](#) about the project.

Bay Area Bike to Wherever days coming in May!



Get out and bike to work, shop, and play with Bike To Wherever days in the Bay Area this May! This will be promoted across the nine Bay Area counties leading up to Bike To Work day on May 18. For more information, read the press release from MTC [here](#), or click [here](#) to go to the official website.

Public notices

Call for comments for Bay Area Air Quality Management District and oil refineries

The Benicia Community Air Monitoring Program (BCAMP) is pushing for accountability and action from the Bay Area Air Quality

Tax Collector/Treasurer/County Clerk

(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 TEXT LINE

741741

THE TREVOR PROJECT FOR LGBTQ YOUTH

866-488-7386

TRANS LIFELINE PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

877-565-8860

Management District (BAAQMD) to enforce rules regarding air monitoring at Bay Area oil refineries. The media release from BCAMP is as follows:

"Only one of the five San Francisco Bay area refineries, the Martinez Refining Company, has met the minimum air quality requirement for compliance with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) Rule 12-15, the other four refineries have failed.

Thursday, April 20 is the last day to comment to BAAQMD on the refineries' Air Monitoring and Quality Assurance Program Plans

Contact: Benicia Community Air Monitoring Program, bcamp94510@gmail.com"

Next week, I will send a letter to an official at BAAQMD urging action. You can read a copy of this letter [here](#). Additionally, you are encouraged to send your own comments. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is accepting comments on the refineries' plans through **Thursday, April 20 at 5pm**. Comments should be sent to jlapka@baaqmd.gov. For more information, please read the full media release, which includes important context on the issue, [here](#).

Public hearing for the Bay Area Air Quality District

On **Wednesday, June 21 at 9am**, the board members of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District will host a public hearing to discuss amendments being made to the State Implementation Plan. These amendments would change the rules in order to reduce the amount of nitrogen oxide emissions that come from gas-fired space and water heaters. Click [here](#) to read the full announcement or visit the District's [website](#) to access the meeting via Zoom.

Public comments on this issue are being accepted until **May 12**. To submit a comment, you must submit by mail to:

Rule Development
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105

Updates from around Solano County

Benicia water line update



Last week, the temporary bypass line to provide water to Benicia began testing. This week, the first phase of testing has been successful and the structural integrity of the bypass line is sound. Testing will continue into next month when staff will try to expand the line to increase water flow.

In the meantime, the mandatory 40% water conservation for Benicia residents is still in effect. For more information, including tips on how to conserve water and the most recent updates on the bypass line, click [here](#).

Benicia North Study Area community workshop

There will be two workshops next week to discuss how the 527 acres of undeveloped land in North Benicia can be used. The in-person community workshop will be on **Wednesday, April 19 at 7pm** at Northgate Church, 2201 Lake Herman Road. The virtual Zoom workshop will be the following day, **Thursday, April 20 at 7pm**. Community input is important for developing this land. For more information, including the link to the Zoom meeting, click [here](#).

Solano Ag Pass - don't miss your chance to apply

Members of the Solano agricultural community are encouraged to apply for the newly-approved ag pass program. This program helps to better prepare commercial farmers, ranchers, ag processors, and horse stable operators in the event of natural disasters and pre-approves entrance to evacuation areas in emergencies. Training is required to obtain a pass. For more information on how to apply and training dates, read the press release [here](#). Please note this is the only time this year the pass will be available.

If you would like to apply, please note that **you must attend training on April 21 and April 27**. For more information on these trainings, view the Ag Pass website [here](#).

Deadline extended: Home rehabilitation for veterans, seniors, and disabled homeowners

Rebuilding Together Solano County (RTSC) has extended the application period for their home rehabilitation project through **Sunday, April 30, 2023**. This free project aims to help bring safety and healthy living through home renovation and is open to low-income veterans and surviving veteran spouses, seniors, and disabled people who own a home. If you or someone you know qualifies for this project, you are encouraged to apply. To read more about qualifications, view the flyer [here](#) or download the application [here](#).



Quarterly meeting of the Solano County Military & Veterans Committee

The Solano County Military and Veterans Committee is hosting their quarterly meeting on **Thursday, April 27 from 10am to 12pm** at the Suisun Veterans Memorial Building. You can view the full agenda [here](#), which includes items about Toxic Exposure Risk Activity and its relation to the PACT Act, ending homelessness for veterans, and much more.

March updates from Humane Society North Bay



The month of April is National Volunteer Month. The Humane Society North Bay (HSNB) would like to thank all hardworking volunteers who make HSNB's mission a reality. If you are considering volunteering, check out the HSNB volunteer

application [here](#).

HSNB has also shared some statistics from the month of March:

- **Adoptions:** 19 dogs, 2 cats
- **Transfers to adoption partners:** 13 dogs, 8 cats
- **Return to owner:** 8 dogs, 1 cat

HSNB has some upcoming events. Your participation helps make their work a possibility!

- **Vallejo Farmer's Market:** Saturday, April 22 9am-2pm
- **HSNB Open Shelter:** Every Saturday in April, 12pm-4pm

Application for new apartments in Cordelia Green Valley

The Fairfield Planning Division recently received an application for a new 84-unit apartment project to be built between the Cordelia Library and the L'Academy Spanish Bilingual Immersion Preschool. The project is temporarily stalled until required materials are

received. Community concerns about the project were addressed by the development group on March 29. To read more about the project and a summary of the community's concerns, view the news brief [here](#) under "Quality of Life."

Arts Benicia updates and events

Arts Benicia has provided some information on upcoming events and happenings - check them out:



Next Generation Exhibition: Until April 23, Arts Benicia is featuring over 200 artworks from Benicia youth, kindergarten through high school. Drawing, paintings, sculptures, and other visual art will be on display.

Family Art Day: Come create art with your family at this **free** event on **Sunday, April 16 from 1pm - 6pm.**

Open Studios 2023: Mark your calendars for **May 6 and 7, 10am - 5pm** for Open Studios 2023. This offers the opportunity to meet the artists of Benicia Arsenal, see their work, and have discussions about the artistic process. More information to come soon at [this link](#).

Visit the Arts Benicia Gallery: The gallery is open in the Commanding Officer's Quarters at 1 Commandant's lane, **Thursday through Sunday, 1 pm - 5 pm.** To learn more, visit the [Arts Benicia website](#).

Art classes for adults: Interested in learning how to use watercolors, oil paints, or reduction woodcutting? Register for these classes and more by checking out the art class schedule [here](#). Most classes are open to beginners.

Volunteer opportunities: Arts Benicia has a variety of volunteer positions open. For information on how to volunteer, send an email to info@artsbenicia.org.

For full details on all of these updates, view the news document [here](#).

Upcoming events in Solano County

The History of the Peñas and the Vacas, Part III



The Dixon Historical Society will host Cecelia Peña and Armando Perez, along with Darlene Peña Coombs and Brian Irwin, for the third and final part of their talk on the history of the Peñas and Vacas, this time discussing their family histories in Peña

Adobe in Vacaville and how indigenous people were part of settlers' lives. This event will be at Dixon Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, **Sunday, April 16 from 2 pm - 3:30 pm**. The event will also be available via Zoom. To request registration for the Zoom lecture, please email

dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com,
penaadobe@gmail.com, or call **1-707-693-3044** with your intent to RSVP.

"Get connected" at JFK Library

Need to get connected to low-cost internet or phone service? Attend the Get Connected event on **Saturday, April 22 from 10am to 2pm** at the JFK Library in Vallejo. Library staff will be there to help with enrollment in the Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides low-cost or discounted internet service. Representatives from T-Mobile will also be at the event to help participants sign up for Lifeline phones.

Earth Day events across Solano County



Participate in Solano County's 9th annual Earth Day Cleanup on **Saturday, April 22!** Cleanup events will be held in each of the county's seven cities and three of the county's parks. To find the nearest cleanup site to you, click [here](#).

California native plant sale

Let your garden thrive with plants native to the Solano County area with the California Native Plant Society's spring plant sale. You can purchase plants online from **April 24 through April 30** or in-person on **May 6** at the Heritage Presbyterian Church, 1400 East Second Street in Benicia, 10am - 2pm. Stay tuned to [this link](#) for the



online sale inventory beginning April 24. To view a larger version of the flyer, click [here](#).

Art and Poetry with Suzanne Bruce



Artists and poets are invited to take part in this collaborative event hosted by Fairfield Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce on **Saturday, May 6, from 10am to 12pm**. Meet up at the the Dunnell Nature and Education Center at 3351 Hilborn Road in Fairfield where artists will listen to poets' work and create an art piece inspired by their words. Creations will be shared at another meeting in July. For full details, including submission rules, click [here](#).

Celebrate World Goth Day in Vallejo



The San Francisco Bay Area's 3rd Annual World Goth Day is coming up on **Saturday, May 6 from 11am to 8pm** at the Empress Theatre in Vallejo. Experience live bands, DJs, and an oddities market featuring over 50 creators selling unique jewelry, home décor, and art! General admission tickets are \$10. To get tickets, click [here](#). To read more about the event, view page 17 of the [Vallejo](#)

[Weekly](#).

Events I attended this week

Friday, April 7th, I attended the service held for the Grange student Terra Star Jackson. School Board member Ana Petero sat with me. Other teachers were in attendance. The death of a child is always hard. As a teacher, when one of your students passes away, it is difficult. The empty chair in your classroom is a daily reminder of the loss.

Saturday, April 8th, I attended the pancake breakfast at the Benicia Veteran's Hall. Shawn, Michele, and others made great pancakes. Across the street was craft fair with Easter Eggs hidden in the grass at the top of each hour. The weather was great and I found and bought a beautiful pink butterfly necklace. In the afternoon, I attended the St. Peter's chapel (located on Mare island) Easter choral event. The singers came from Napa. What a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday.

Tuesday, April 11, I was invited to be on a panel about Benicia's budget crisis. Mayor Steve Young and Bret Prebula were also panelists. From my point of view, the bottom line is do Benicians want to be a full-service city? If so, there is a pathway to make that

happen. Bret's PowerPoint was excellent and showed how to make that happen.

Wednesday, April 12, I was invited to attend the Glen Cove Home Owners Association's meeting. Fire and police leaders also attended. At least 50 people were in attendance. Discussion centered around fires and public safety. Many businesses, cities and counties need workers. That is true for police as well.

Thursday, April 13 I attended the 2023 NorCal Career Fair at Solano Community College. To my amusement, the Solano County Office of Education as well as Yolo County Office of Education and Napa County Office of Education were in attendance. There are lots of jobs available. The Postal Service is looking, see the link in the section below. The Superior Court of California: County of Solano is looking for a Court Reporter, Judicial Assistant II, and Legal Process Clerk II. Apply Now at <https://solano.courts.ca.gov/employment>. It was fun to be back at Solano Community College.

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](#)



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.

This week's newsletter heading photo was taken in Cordelia by my son, Seth.