



**SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER**

January 19, 2024



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

**Ballot materials**

**Important Numbers Resources and Dates**

**District 2 Office**

(707) 784-3031

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

(707) 784-6100

**Veterans Services**

(707) 784-6590

**Health & Social Services**

(707) 784-8400

**Assessor/Recorder**

(707) 784-6200

**Resource Management**

(707) 784-6765

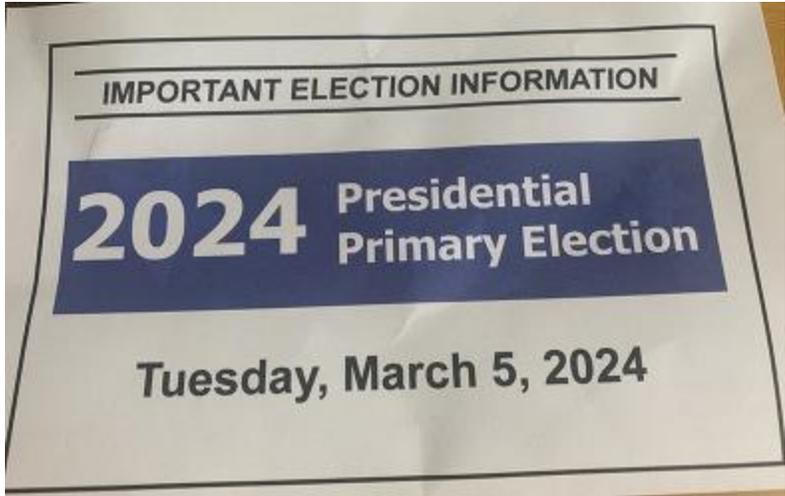
**Registrar of Voters**

(707) 784-6675

**Tax Collector/Treasurer/County Clerk**

(707) 784-7485

**Area Agency on Aging**



Solano County residents should be on the lookout for primary sample ballots and official ballots the first week of February.

"If a voter doesn't receive their ballot by Valentine's Day, they should give us a call!" said John Gardner, assistant registrar of voters with Solano County.

The Solano County Registrar of Voters can be reached at (707) 784-6675.

### Information this week

### State Sen. Bill Dodd issues statement on California Forever project



Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, issued the following statement regarding the announcement from developers of the proposed California Forever community in Solano County that they would soon begin collecting signatures for a ballot initiative to get their project built:

"They've certainly put plenty of money and time into their proposal but there are still huge, unresolved issues like traffic, and I'm not sold," Dodd said. "If the measure qualifies, Solano County voters will get to weigh in on whether they think it's a good idea. I hope decisions are based on facts, not slogans, misdirection and massive campaign spending. We shouldn't gloss over very important public policy considerations that will have generational impacts."

(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

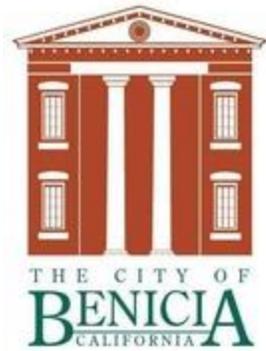
866-488-7386

#### TRANS LIFELINE PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

877-565-8860

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

## Benicia's economic situation



2024 will be a pivotal year for the city of Benicia as the municipality will need to eliminate \$6.5 million in programs and services to remain solvent.

In January, the city will hold a series of meetings and engagements for the community to share their thoughts on how the city should make those cuts, according to City Manager Mario Giuliani.

A community survey can be found [here](#).

An in-person Town Hall will be held on **Thursday, January 25 at 6:00 p.m. at Benicia Community Center, 370 East L Street.**

There will be a virtual Town Hall at **6pm on Wednesday, January 24.** The link can be found [here](#).

"There is no easy fix or magic solution that will keep everything the same as it always has been. We have to make very difficult decisions," Giuliani said. "If we are willing to sacrifice today, then our resiliency will, by the end of this decade, lead to fiscal vibrancy so we may enhance the services and surroundings of our amazing community.

"I know these days are hard, but we will persevere," Giuliani added.

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

## Applications Open for Cal Water's College Scholarship Grants



Applications are now being accepted for California Water Service's (Cal Water) [11th annual college scholarship program](#) offering

\$80,000 in awards to eligible students in Cal Water's service territory!

Four \$10,000 scholarships will be awarded along with additional scholarships ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000. Eligible applicants must plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate study program at an accredited college, university, or vocational-technical school for the 2024-2025 academic year.

**The application period will close on Sunday, March 28.** Winners will be announced in the summer.

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

## Nominate an Outstanding Public High School Teacher



Know of an outstanding teacher who made an impact on your life?

Above & Beyond Teaching is asking former students to nominate a teacher that helped shaped your future. Above & Beyond Teaching will speak with

each student about their former teacher, then talk to the principal, teacher colleagues, school counselors, and multiple additional former students. After this careful process, they then contact the teacher and arrange to meet at their school and observe their classroom teaching.

The organization narrows it down to ten of the best candidates for consideration by our Board of Directors, with a focus on those who teach in the most challenging public-school communities. Five are selected to join the family of Honorees and receive \$10,000 each.

Above & Beyond Teaching celebrates and supports outstanding and inspirational California public high school teachers, especially those working in underserved school communities.

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

## Kaiser Permanente's new Community Health Care Program



This month, Kaiser Permanente launched the [Community Health Care Program](#) (CHCP) in California for people who do not have access to any other health coverage. Individuals do not need to be U.S. citizens to qualify.

CHCP members will get the Kaiser Permanente Platinum 90 HMO plan. Monthly premiums for comprehensive coverage are subsidized, and members do not have to pay copays for out-of-pocket costs for most care.

**The deadline to apply for CHCP is January 31, 2024, and space is limited.**

For details on the Community Health Care Program, click [here](#). Or call Member Services at 1-800-464-4000 (TTY 711), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed major holidays).

## Survey of LGBTQIA+ Older Adults in California

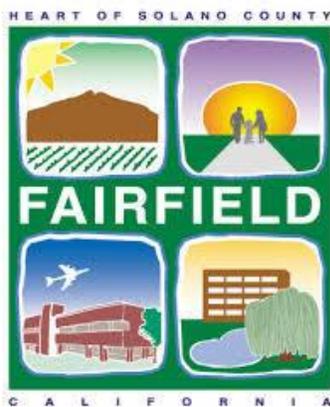
The California Department of Aging (CDA) is supporting research partners and a statewide coalition of LGBTQIA+ community-based organizations to design and launch California's first statewide survey documenting the needs, hopes and priorities of mid-life and older LGBTQIA+ residents across the state.

For more information, or to take the survey, click [here](#).

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## Public hearings

### Fairfield Forward 2050: General Plan Update Community Workshop



What do you think Fairfield should focus on as it plans for the future? The Fairfield City Council recently endorsed a Preferred Land Use Plan, which includes a map of major land use changes and draft guiding policies that will serve as the General Plan's framework. At this next stage, the city needs your input to shape detailed policies.

Join city officials at a workshop to share your ideas on how Fairfield can achieve its goals!

- ▶ Learn more about the big-picture future land use changes
- ▶ Hear about the guiding policies that will shape the plan
- ▶ Share your thoughts on specific topics and policies the plan should include  
**General Plan Update Community Workshop In-Person Workshop Saturday, January 20, from 10 to 11:30am  
 Fairfield Community Center 1000 Kentucky Street, Lakeside Room A and Lakeside Room B**

Spanish interpretation and light refreshments provided. **Online Zoom Workshop Tuesday, January 23, 6 to 7:30pm** Zoom Registration: <https://bit.ly/FPPPW>

Spanish interpretation provided.

For questions, contact Associate Planner Jessie Hernandez at [jhernandez@fairfield.ca.gov](mailto:jhernandez@fairfield.ca.gov)

## Solano Master Plan for aging

# Solano Master Plan for Aging

TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF OLDER AND DISABLED ADULTS

### MEETING OVERVIEW

- Learn about Solano's process for developing a Master Plan for Aging that addresses the needs of older and disabled adults.
- Review local data about older and disabled adults.
- Learn how to apply for Solano's Master Plan for Aging Advisory Committee.
- Explore ways you can get involved in this exciting, important, and worthwhile process.



*Don't miss this chance to contribute to the discussion, share your insights, and help us make our community a more inclusive place for all ages.*

**January 30th | 9:30–11:30 am**

**Solano County Events Center  
 Conference Room A  
 601 Texas Street | Fairfield**



**CLICK HERE, scan the QR code, or visit [www.mpasolano.org](http://www.mpasolano.org) to REGISTER for this event!**



**(707) 766-0192**  
[info@innovativehealths.com](mailto:info@innovativehealths.com)  
[innovativehealths.com](http://innovativehealths.com) | [aaans.org](http://aaans.org)



INNOVATIVE  
 HEALTH  
 SOLUTIONS



NAPA/SOLANO  
 AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Solano County, in collaboration with Napa/Solano Area on Aging and Innovative Health Solutions (IHS), has unveiled the Solano Master Plan for Aging (MPA), a strategic initiative to address the evolving needs of the growing population of older and disabled adults in Solano County. The plan is shaped with active input from community leaders and professionals to ensure a targeted, impactful approach.

**A public meeting is scheduled from 9:30 to 11:30am, Tuesday, January 30, inside the Solano County Events Center, 601 Texas Street.**

The MPA is a proactive response to the observable diversification and accelerated growth of the older adult population in Solano County and the State of California. In the next decade, the number of older adults in Solano County is expected to double, representing 20% of the county's population. The plan outlines evidence-based approaches and five strategic plan goals to address this demographic shift and its unique challenges.

To register, click [here](#).

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## Updates from around Solano County the Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging newsletter



Interested in learning about issues affecting older adults? Then consider subscribing to the Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging newsletter.

Access to services and resources is a regular theme members of the Advisory Council of the Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging hear when they meet with and receive feedback from older adults throughout both counties. "Where do I find this information" or "who and how do I contact for this?" are questions heard quite frequently. Here is how to easily access information about older adult services and resources.

### **HOW TO ACCESS INFORMATION ABOUT THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING**

1. In your browser, click on [aaans.org](http://aaans.org).
2. Take the **Poverty Simulator** test and see the decisions seniors on fixed incomes must make.
3. If needed, click on the language bar and select the correct language from the drop-down menu.
4. Click on **Newsletter**
5. Complete enrollment form if not already registered.

6. Scroll down on same page and click on either Newsletters, Press Releases, or Calendar.
7. Select desired *AgeWell* newsletter or Press Release.
8. Continue scrolling to the bottom of the page and click on **Area Plan** to access document.
9. Share this information with others.

Printed “Service Guides” are also available at all Senior Centers in both counties.

## **Do you know how to stop scammers?**

Scam artists are in Solano County and they’re throwing everything they’ve got at us. With the advent of new technologies—including images and voices generated by Artificial Intelligence—sophisticated fraudsters are able and willing to do nearly anything for a quick buck, from down the street or across the globe. *Are you prepared to fight back?*

To help you do just that, *Solano County’s Older & Disabled Adult Services (ODAS)* has launched the [Solano Senior Fraud Prevention Center](#), a repository for all the information residents might need to prevent financial elder abuse, empower seniors and stop scammers in their tracks.

There, you’ll learn the key signs you might be the target of a scammer: Is someone giving you a threat? Are they pushing you to do something costly or asking you to provide private information? Is there a tight deadline or an unbelievable offer? Does that image look a little off—or does that voice sound a bit robotic? If you answered yes to at least one, delete that email, log-off or hang-up!

**To learn more signs or report a crime visit [SolanoScamCenter.org](#) today.**

## **Affordable Connectivity Program**



**SAVE MONEY ON YOUR INTERNET BILL!**

You may be eligible for a \$30 credit on your current internet bill or access to FREE internet service under the Affordable Connectivity Program.

**UPCOMING SIGN UP EVENT:**

**CONNECT WITH US FOR FREE, IN-PERSON SUPPORT:** **Wednesday, January 24, 2024**  
**12:00pm to 5:00pm**  
 Vallejo Housing Authority, 200 Georgia St, Vallejo, CA 94590

**ALL RESIDENTS WHO ENROLL AT THIS EVENT WILL BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE TO WIN A FREE CHROMEBOOK OR IMAC!**

**Essential Documents Required for Discounted Internet Sign-up**

**1. One form of identification is required:**

- U.S. Driver's License
- Government ID: State ID, U.S. Military ID
- Current Passport from any country
- Individual Taxpayer ID Number
- Matricula or Consular ID
- Birth Certificate (from any country) for the minor who is the Benefit Qualifying Person (BQP)

**2. Present ONE valid eligibility document from any of the following programs (available at your local social service office):**

- Medicaid/Medi-cal
- CalFresh/SNAP
- WIC
- Federal Housing Assistance or any other federal aid program you are enrolled in.

Scan to discover additional details about the required documentation.

**Contact Solano Connected at (510) 866-2256 to discover your opportunities for FREE or discounted internet service.**

[Connected.solanocounty.com](http://Connected.solanocounty.com)

We have an upcoming ACP event in collaboration with VipFiber on **Wednesday, January 24th from 12 pm to 5 pm** (Please see attached flyers). The event aims to enroll Solano residents in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides households with a \$30 monthly credit on their home internet or possibly FREE home internet services on selective plans. This is also a safe community event for families and individuals to attend and ask internet service providers any questions they may have regarding their existing internet service account or to find the plan that best meets their needs. **We request you to share this on your social media platforms (Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook etc.) to connect more households to affordable home internet services.**

## Workforce Development Board offering free pre-apprenticeship training program

The Solano Workforce Development Board will be offering a free six-week pre-apprenticeship training program starting in February.

The program, for young adults between the ages of 18-24, aims to help them to complete all the training they need for an introductory trades position.

**This free pre-apprenticeship training will be offered Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Feb. 12 to March 22 at the Vallejo Adult School.**

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

## **Solano LAFCO seeks Letters of Interest and Applications for the Alternate Public Member position**



**Solano Local Agency Formation Commission**  
675 Texas St. Ste. 6700 • Fairfield, California 94533  
(707) 439-3897 • FAX: (707) 438-1788

The Solano LAFCO seeks Letters of Interest and Applications for the Alternate Public Member position with the deadline set for **5pm, Thursday, February 8**. The Alternate Public Member represents the point of view of the general public. The Individual must be a resident of Solano County; may not be an officer or employee of the County or a city in Solano County.

LAFCO is a five-member commission comprised of two members of the Board of Supervisors, two Mayors from cities within Solano County, and a Public Member. There is an alternate for each category who serves and votes in place of regular members if they are absent or disqualified from participating due to a conflict of interest. The Alternate Public Member is appointed and serves at the pleasure of the regular members of the Commission.

LAFCO is charged with preserving agricultural land and open space, providing for orderly boundaries and efficient municipal services, and discouraging urban sprawl.

The commission will meet the second Monday of February, April, June, August, October, and December in the Board of Supervisor's Chambers at 10am at 675 Texas Street in Fairfield. Members receive a stipend of \$100/meeting up to two meetings per month.

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

## **Free Fruits & Veggies from Park It Market**

# FREE FRUITS AND VEGGIES PARK IT MARKET

Come learn about local resources and  
grab a free bag of fresh produce!

**Fairfield- Suisun Adult School**  
**900 Travis Blvd, Fairfield, CA 94533**

(Please use the West entrance on Fairfield Ave)

Every 3rd Friday from 2pm- 4pm

Friday, January 19th

Friday, February 16th

Friday, March 15th

Friday, April 19th

***Please bring a bag***



**CommuniCare+OLE**  
Caring for Napa, Solano & Yolo Counties

**SOLANO  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH**



**Aliados Health**  
Access | Equity | Advocacy | Innovation

**humane**

CommuniCare+ OLE (previously known as OLE Health), in partnership with Aliados Health and Food is Free Bay Area (FIFBA), provide community members with local resources, free fruits, vegetables and other staple items. Nonprofit organizations are invited to do outreach.

**The market will take place every Third Friday from 2 to 4pm at the Fairfield Suisun Adult School, 900 Travis Blvd, Fairfield.**

For more information, contact Jennifer at [Jennifer.Aguilar@CommuniCareOLE.org](mailto:Jennifer.Aguilar@CommuniCareOLE.org) or Rosa at [Rosa.Douglas@communicareole.org](mailto:Rosa.Douglas@communicareole.org).

Individuals interested in volunteering for CommuniCare+ OLE, please contact Mauriana at [mauriana.faison@communicareole.org](mailto:mauriana.faison@communicareole.org) or fill out the [volunteer application form](#).

## **Scholarships for college grads working on a teaching credential**

The California Retired Teachers Association, Division 24, is offering scholarships to encourage college graduates from Solano County who are planning to teach locally but needing to complete work for a valid state teaching credential.

The C. Shirley Michel Scholarships are available for Solano County residents who have baccalaureate degrees, are currently enrolled in an accredited credential program, and who plan to teach — or are teaching — in Solano County.

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

## **NAMI Peer-to-Peer**

NAMI Peer-to-Peer is a free, eight-session educational program for adults with mental health conditions who are looking to better understand themselves and their recovery. Taught by trained leaders with lived experience, this program includes activities, discussions and informative videos.

**Class starts Thursday, February 8 at 6 to 8pm via Zoom and ends Thursday, March 28.** Must be 18 years of age or older. Space is limited. To join, use this [registration link](#). For questions, contact Tara at [tara@namisolano.org](mailto:tara@namisolano.org).

## **Translation Services for Non-profits in Solano County**

## **Translation Assistance from the Solano-Napa SBDC**

*Available at no-charge to  
Solano County non-profits*

- ➔ **Verbal interpretation**  
Client meetings, employer to employee conversations
- ➔ **Document translation**  
Reports, marketing materials, employee handbooks

Request translation  
assistance at  
[solanonapasbdc.org/  
business-translation-services](http://solanonapasbdc.org/business-translation-services)  
or call 707-646-1071



Made possible with Solano  
County ARPA funding



Translation assistance is now available at no charge to Solano County non-profits, including verbal interpretation and document translation.

To request translation assistance, click [here](#) or call (707) 646-1071.

## **Upcoming Touro-Solano Public Health Mobile Vaccine Clinics in January 2024**



**FREE FLU SHOTS, TDAP AND COVID-19\* VACCINES IN SOLANO, CA** 

\*For 19+ years uninsured individuals

| DATE                           | TIME         | LOCATION                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday,<br>January 11, 2024  | 4:30-6:30 PM | <b>Hogan Middle School</b><br>850 Rosewood Ave, Vallejo, CA 94591<br><i>inside the gymnasium</i>                                                                                                                                |
| Saturday,<br>January 20, 2024  | 11 AM-2 PM   | <b>"Healing our Future" Seminar</b><br><b>Solano County Events Center</b><br>601 Texas St. Fairfield, CA 94533<br><i>Blood Pressure/ Blood Sugar Screenings will also be offered!</i>                                           |
| Sunday,<br>January 21, 2024    | 10 AM-4 PM   | <b>St. Catherine of Siena Church</b><br>3450 Tennessee St, Vallejo, CA 94591<br><i>Inside the Parish Life Center Building</i><br><i>Blood Pressure/ Blood Sugar Screenings will also be offered by the MOSEC team: 10am-2pm</i> |
| Wednesday,<br>January 24, 2024 | 10 AM-12 PM  | <b>Florence Douglas Senior Center</b><br>333 Amador St, Vallejo, CA 94590<br><i>Blood Pressure/ Blood Sugar Screenings will also be offered by the MOSEC team!</i>                                                              |
| Thursday,<br>November 17, 2024 | 4:30-6:30 PM | <b>Vallejo High School</b><br>840 Nebraska St, Vallejo, CA 94590<br><i>Inside the Finney MPR</i>                                                                                                                                |



All Touro-Solano Public Health Clinics are now Walk-ins for everyone 3 years and over. The clinics are offering free of charge:

- Part of the vaccine requirements for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Tdap Vaccine for 10+ years
- Influenza Vaccine for 3+ years
- No-cost COVID-19 vaccine. **2023-2024 Formula for adults** without health insurance **and adults whose** insurance does not cover all vaccine costs.

If you have health insurance (Medi-Cal, Medicare Part B, Medicare Part D, Private Insurance). Visit your primary care doctor or local pharmacy for COVID-19 vaccine availability. Other vaccine clinics can be found by visiting the following sites: <http://vaccines.gov/> and <https://MyTurn.Ca.Gov>

## Rosey program



**ROSEY**  
Connecting to What Matters



The **Rosey Tablet Program** by Meals on Wheels of Solano County is designed to connect seniors to their friends, families, and communities through technology.

If you or someone you know:

- Live Alone or Feel Isolated
- Aren't Very Comfortable with Technology
- Want to Connect to Your Family, Friends, and Community, you will [love](#) this program!

**Rosey is safe, simple, and fun to use!**

Who Qualifies? Solano County Seniors Age 60+ or Permanently Disabled Adult

Rosey tablets are your all-in-one companions and have many features, including:

| ENTERTAINMENT    | WELLNESS                    | CONNECTION             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Games            | Medication Reminders        | Email & Text Messaging |
| Videos           | Exercises/Routines          | Video Calling          |
| News             | Health & Wellness Check-ins | Photo Album            |
| Website Browsing | Alerts                      | Calendar Reminders     |

*And so much more! All set up, monitored, and supported by Meals on Wheels of Solano County.*

If interested, please reach out to our  
**Program Coordinator**

707-806-0164 [info@mowsc.org](mailto:info@mowsc.org)  
[www.mealsonwheelssolano.org/rosey](http://www.mealsonwheelssolano.org/rosey)




Meals on Wheels of Solano County is dedicated to ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of seniors by providing services to help them live nourished lives with independence and dignity.

The Rosey Tablet Program by Meals on Wheels of Solano County is designed to connect seniors to their friends, families, and communities through technology. If you or someone you know: Live alone or feel isolated, aren't very comfortable with technology, want to connect to your family, friends, and community, you will love this program!

Solano County seniors age 60+ or permanently disabled adults qualify.

For more information, click [here](#) or call (707) 806-0164.

## Upcoming events in Solano County

### Healing our Future: Addressing Black Maternal and Infant Health in Solano County Seminar



Solano County Supervisor Wanda Williams, Black Women Organized for Political Action Solano/Napa Chapter & Solano County Health and Social Services presents their seminar **Healing Our Future: Addressing Black Maternal and Infant Health in Solano County** scheduled for **Saturday, January 20, 2024 from 11:30am to 1:30pm** in Fairfield.

The program will be held at the Solano County Events Center, 601 Texas

Street, Fairfield.

Sponsorship opportunities and booth space is available. For more information, contact Latressa Wilson Alford at [lwilsonalford@solanocounty.com](mailto:lwilsonalford@solanocounty.com).

## **Poetry Reading and Open Mic**

**DYNAMIC TRIO**  
COME MEET AND HEAR THESE INSPIRATIONAL POETS!

**POETRY OPEN MIC**

**FEATURING POETS:**

**FRANCESCA BELL**  

 Author of *Bright Stain*, a finalist for the Washington State Book Award and the Julie Suk Award, and *What Small Sound*. She translated *Whoever Drowned Here* by German poet Max Sessner. Her work appears widely in literary journals, and she is the Marin County Poet Laureate.

**CONNIE POST**  

 First Poet Laureate of Livermore whose work has appeared in *Calyx*, *Slipstream*, *Comstock Review*, *2 River*, *American Journal of Poetry*, *River Styx*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Slippery Elm*, and *Verse Daily*. Poetry awards include the Liakoura Award and Crab Creek Poetry Award. Her full-length collections include *Floodwater*, *Prime Meridian* and *Between Twilight*.

**LUKE JOHNSON**  

 Author of *Quiver*, a finalist for The Jake Adam York Prize, The Levis Award, The Vassar Miller Prize and the Brittingham. His second book *A Slow Indwelling*, a call and response with the poet Megan Merchant, is forthcoming from Harbor Editions Fall 2024.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024 | 1:00PM - 3:00PM**  
**FAIRFIELD CORDELIA LIBRARY, 5050 BUSINESS CENTER DR**

The Dynamic Trio: Francesca Bell, Connie Post and Luke Johnson will hold a special reading from **1 to 3pm, Saturday, January 20 at the Fairfield Cordelia Library, 5050 Business Center Drive.**

An Open Mic will follow their readings.

## Arts Benicia



Join Arts Benicia Gallery for their annual Arts Benicia members-only Community Art Exhibition! An exhibition in which the wealth of talent of their regional member artists, ranging from those with limited experience to master artists, is shared. The exhibition runs

from **January 20 through February 25**, and will feature over 150 works. Gallery Hours for the exhibition: Thursday to Sunday, 1 to 5 pm. The Arts Benicia Gallery is located at 1 Commandant's Lane

The opening reception for **Art of a Community 2024** will take place on **Saturday, January 20, from 4 to 6pm**. Music for the opening reception will be provided by **Jim Kovalcik** who has been playing professionally since he was 16 with over 50 years performing in many different places and musical settings.

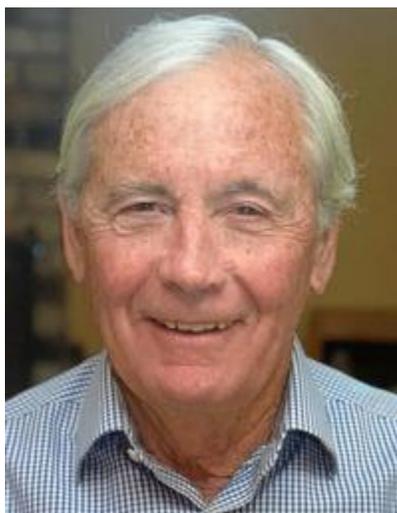
In addition, Arts Benicia also has special events related to the exhibition located at the Arts Benicia Gallery: **Ekphrastic Poetry Event**, Sunday, February 18, 2 to 4 pm and **Family Art Day**, Sunday, February 4, 1 to 3 pm.

The Arts Benicia Gallery is located at 1 Commandant's Lane, Benicia, in the Commanding Officer's Quarters, in the historic Benicia Arsenal. Gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday, 1 to 5 pm. Visitors are invited to walk throughout the historic mansion built in 1860, an important and interesting part of our town's history. For more information visit <https://artsbenicia.org>

Arts Benicia also offers art classes for adults and youth, many of which are open to beginners. Consider checking out the new classes listed on our website. For our full listings, please visit <https://artsbenicia.org/adult-classes> and <https://artsbenicia.org/youth-art-classes>

Interested in sponsoring a program with Arts Benicia? The support of local businesses and donors is essential to the quality and reach of our programs. To find out more about sponsoring an Arts Benicia exhibition or program, please get in touch by emailing [info@artsbenicia.org](mailto:info@artsbenicia.org)

## Speakers Series: "Old 84"



Join historian and journalist Brendan Riley as he describes another Mare Island legacy. The Navy's first land-based prison was built on Mare Island in 1868, and that prison soon became infamous throughout the fleet. The Navy was in transition from a time when ship's officers punished errant sailors by flogging them with a "cat o' nine tails." Following an 1850 congressional ban on flogging, the Navy experimented with alternative punishments, but it soon became clear a land-based prison system was needed.

The event will take place from 3 to 4:30pm, Sunday, January 21 inside St. Peter's Chapel, 1181 Walnut Ave, Mare Island, Vallejo.

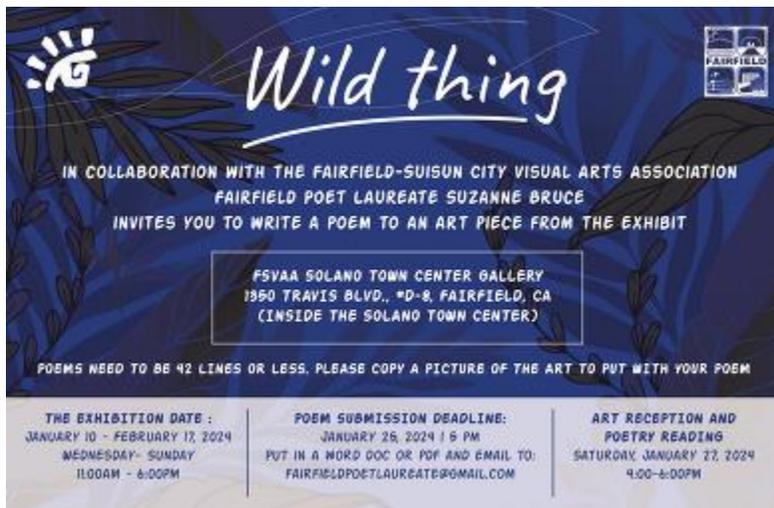
To buy a ticket, click [here](#).

## Community Outdoor Wellness Sessions beginning Saturday, January 27

Join the new Napa ParkRx program, Community Outdoor Wellness Sessions / Vamonos Afuera Con Amor y Sonrisas, **for their kick-off event on Saturday, January 27 from 9:30am to 12:30pm during which the health fair will focus on engaging activities.**

There will be exercise classes such as Zumba, Stretching and Strengthening, nutrition demonstrations, group bike rides with the bike coalition, nature-based activities with the resource conservation district, mobile clinic services from Adventist Health and more! For more information, click [here](#).

## Wild Thing



Fairfield Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce in collaboration with the Fairfield-Suisun City Visual Arts Association invites you to write a poem to an art piece from the exhibit of Wild Thing.

**Exhibition dates are from January 10 to February 17 with an art reception and poetry reading from 4 to 6pm, Saturday, January 27.**

The exhibit is at the Solano Town Center Gallery, 1350 Travis Blvd., #D-8, Fairfield (inside the Solano Town Center Mall). Art can be seen at the Gallery from 11am to 6pm on Wednesday to Sunday.

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

## Tobacco Free Solano 2023 Celebration

A promotional poster for the Tobacco Free Solano 2023 Celebration. The background is yellow with festive decorations including stars, confetti, and party hats. At the top center is a photograph of several hands of different skin tones stacked together in a circle. Below the photo, the text reads: "TOBACCO FREE SOLANO PRESENTS CELEBRATION OF 2023" in red, "FEBRUARY 7TH 2024 | 5PM - 7PM PST" in green, and "\*IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL" in red. The location is listed as "Solano County Health and Social Services Multipurpose Center, 2101 Courage Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533". To the right of the location is the text "RSVP HERE:" above a QR code. At the bottom left is a Zoom icon and a URL: "https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86089979424?pwd=Cs3TmRDT4DB6BSYbrorZwci4rwT6wn.1".

**TOBACCO FREE SOLANO PRESENTS  
CELEBRATION OF 2023**

**FEBRUARY 7TH 2024 | 5PM - 7PM PST**

**\*IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL**

**Solano County Health and Social Services  
Multipurpose Center  
2101 Courage Drive  
Fairfield, CA 94533**

**RSVP HERE:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86089979424?  
pwd=Cs3TmRDT4DB6BSYbrorZwci4rwT6wn.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86089979424?pwd=Cs3TmRDT4DB6BSYbrorZwci4rwT6wn.1)

Tobacco Free Solano will host its celebration of 2023 from **5 to 7pm, on Wednesday, February 7** at the Solano County Health and Social Services Multipurpose Center, 2101 Courage Drive in the city of Fairfield.

To register, click [here](#).

## State of the City Event to feature lead economist

The Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Fairfield's State of the City presentation, "Looking Back, Moving Forward," on **February 15, 2024, from 8am to 12pm** at



**the Hilton Garden Inn, 2200 The Courtyard in the city of Fairfield.**

Mayor Catherine “Cat” Moy will be joined by City Manager, David Gassaway, and guest speaker, Jerry Nickelsburg.

Nickelsburg is the Faculty Director of UCLA’s Anderson Forecast, a leading, unbiased economic organization that has focused on global, national, state, and local economies for over 70 years. He holds a Ph.D. in economics and specializes in monetary economics and econometrics. He also plays a key role in national, state, and regional economic modeling and forecasting.

The breakfast event registration is now open for attendees at a cost of \$50 per person.

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

## Meet the Doula Night

Join Solano HEALs and Doula Doula as they host a workshop where Partnership HealthPlan with discuss doula enrollment. This is a wonderful opportunity for pregnant families and the community to connect with local doulas.

**The event is from 5:30 to 7:30pm, Thursday, February 15, Fairfield Cordelia Library, 5050 Business Center Drive, Fairfield.**

To register, click [here](#).

## Teen Poetry Reading

**SOLANO COUNTY LIBRARY TEEN POETRY CONTEST POETRY READING**

THE TEEN LIBRARIAN ELIZABETH BELL AND FAIRFIELD POET LAUREATE SUZANNE BRUCE ARE HOSTING A POETRY READING FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS OF THE SOLANO COUNTY TEEN POETRY CONTEST. PLEASE COME AND HEAR THESE STUDENTS READ THEIR POEMS!

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**      **FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY 1150 KENTUCKY STREET**

A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW THE READING. ALL POEMS WERE HUNG AT THE CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY ON DECEMBER 28, 2023, AND WILL BE DISPLAYED THROUGH THE END OF JANUARY, 2024.

Solano County LIBRARY      FAIRFIELD

Teen Librarian Elizabeth Bell and Fairfield Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce are hosting a teen poetry reading **from 1 to 4pm, Saturday,**

**February 17, at the Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky Street.**

There will be introductions of the winners from a recent teen poetry contest, then all students will read their entries. A reception will follow the reading.

Please come and support these teens! It is important they know their voices are heard!

## Crab feed



# Crab Feed 2024

**Saturday, February 10, 2024  
6:00PM**

NorthBay Administration Center  
4500 Business Center Drive Fairfield

**\$75.00 per person**

**\$1,000 SPONSORSHIP**  
Includes Table for 8  
and promotional benefits  
(includes 2 bottles of wine for table)

For tickets and information  
Call (707) 421-2272  
Or scan the QR code



CASA of Solano County, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization  
Taxpayer ID # 20-2551209

The Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA) of Solano County will hold a crab feed fundraiser at **6pm, Saturday, February 17 inside the Northbay Administrative Center, 4500 Business Center Drive in Fairfield.**

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

## Trash Mob

# TRASH MOB

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024  
ALLAN WITT PARK, 1741 W. TEXAS STREET



The city of Fairfield is looking for volunteers to help with its next Trash Mob on **Saturday, February 24, from 9 to 11 am, at Allan Witt Park, 1741 W. Texas Street.**

Snacks and water and all supplies will be provided, and Public Works will be on hand to collect the full trash bags.

Contact Karen Rees to register at [krees@fairfield.ca.gov](mailto:krees@fairfield.ca.gov) or call (707) 428-7767. Volunteers must complete a waiver form. For those under age 18, a parent or guardian signature is required. This is a great way for students to earn community service hours for school!

## 19th Annual Solano County African American Community Baby Shower



A More Excellent Way Health Organization and community partners are inviting African American pregnant and breastfeeding women and expectant fathers to the Virtual and Drive-Thru “More Excellent Way Community

Baby Shower” on Saturday, February 24, 2024. This event is free and will include health and education workshops and a drive-thru health and resource fair.

To register, click [here](#). For more information, contact Monique Sims at [Mnqsims@gmail.com](mailto:Mnqsims@gmail.com) or call (707) 319-7489.

The event will take place from **10am to noon, Saturday, February 24, 2024** via Zoom for the health and education workshops, and at Refuge Community Fellowship Church, 104 Lincoln Road, Vallejo from **12:30 to 2:30pm** for the drive-thru health and resource fair.

## **Birth Justice Solano 2024: Addressing Racial Disparities in Birth Outcomes**

Join the Birth Justice Solano 2024 Event in Vallejo on Sunday, February 25, where experts, doulas, nurses and public health administrators will come together for an informative and supportive event from **10am to 3pm, Sunday, February 25, at Touro University, 105 Owen Drive on Mare Island in Vallejo.**

Let's address the racial disparities in birth outcomes and work towards a healthier future for all!

To register for the event, click [here](#). If you are Interested in being a vendor, click [here](#).

## **Open House**



The poster features a background image of a stone fountain in front of a brick building. Two green banners with the word "FREE" in white are positioned at the top left and top right. The text "MOHB OPEN HOUSE" is prominently displayed in white, with "2060 CAMEL RD. BENICIA" below it. A central circular logo for the Museum of History Benicia (MoHB) is shown, featuring a building icon and the text "MUSEUM OF HISTORY BENICIA" and "MoHB". Two circular inset images show a person wearing a mask and a museum exhibit. At the bottom, the date and time "FEBRUARY 29, 2024 5:00 - 8:00PM" are listed in green, followed by the website "www.mohbenicia.org" and phone number "707-745-5435".

**FREE** **MOHB** **FREE**  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
**2060 CAMEL RD. BENICIA**

**FEBRUARY 29, 2024**  
**5:00 - 8:00PM**

[www.mohbenicia.org](http://www.mohbenicia.org) 707-745-5435

Join the Museum of History, Benicia (MoHB) for a free evening at the Museum. Come out for a fun night of exhibits, surprises for the whole family, learn about the museum, how it operates, and volunteer opportunities, membership and so much more.

**The open house will take place from 5 to 8pm, Thursday, February 29, at 2060 Camel Road in Benicia.**

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

## **Back to Basics Class available**

The Benicia Adult Education is offering a Back to Basics Class: A Sampler on Self-Sufficiency Living. It is a 16-week course that will cover topics such as growing food and herbs at home, beekeeping, keeping chickens, various methods of gardening, composting and making kombucha.

Tuition is \$250 and students will earn a certificate. **The class begins on January 20, 2024 and runs through May 4, 2024.** Classes are on Saturdays from 10 to 11am and will be held at the Benicia Adult School at 350 East K St., Room 7.

To register, click [here](#).

## **Book Club**



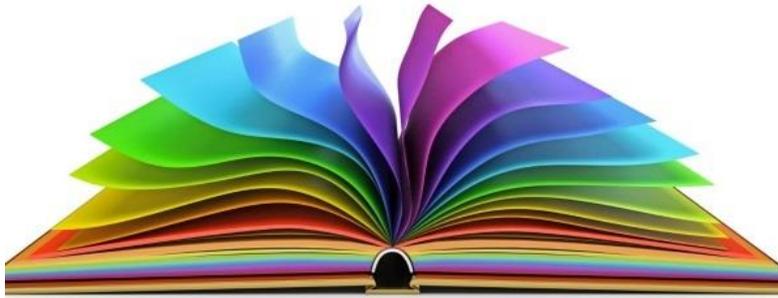
Web: [solanolibrary.com](http://solanolibrary.com)  
Phone: 1-866-572-7587  
Facebook, Instagram, Twitter icons followed by [solanolibrary](https://www.facebook.com/solanolibrary)

## RAINBOW READS BOOK CLUB

A book club for teens with books featuring LGBTQ+ themes and/or LGBTQ+ authors. Come have some snacks, meet new friends, and get a copy of the book we'll read!

FAIRFIELD CIVIC  
CENTER LIBRARY

JANUARY 23  
FEBRUARY 27  
MARCH 26  
APRIL 23  
4:15 PM



The next Teen Rainbow Reads book club takes place on **Tuesday, January 23 at 4:15pm inside the Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky Street.**

Teen Rainbow Reads is a book club where teens get to read teen books featuring LGBTQ characters. All teens are welcome to join this book club! Snacks will be provided, too!

### **Birth Justice**



The Solano Commission for Women and Girls and the Friends of the Commission for Women and Girls will host the third annual Birth Justice Solano event on February 25.

As a 501c3 non-profit organization and fiscal agent in support of the SCWG, the Friends are instrumental in facilitating this vital educational and outreach opportunity, funded in part by a grant from the California Commission on the Status of Women. Birth Justice Solano 2024 aims to shed light on the critical issue of disparities in maternal health outcomes, with a particular focus on women of color in Solano County and beyond.

Recent statistics underscore the urgency of our mission. Black and brown women face alarming maternal mortality rates, with black women being more than three times as likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than their white counterparts. In Solano County, these disparities persist, highlighting the need for immediate attention and action. Birth Justice is not just an event; it is a response to a critical healthcare challenge that demands our collective commitment.

**The event is from 10am to 3pm, Sunday, February 25 at Touro University, Lander Hall, 105 Owen Drive on Mare Island in the city of Vallejo.**

For more information or to express your interest, please reach out [friendsofSCWG@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofSCWG@gmail.com). To register, click [here](#).

**Solano Community College crab and shrimp feed**



**SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**



**SOLANO  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

# Crab & Shrimp Feed

**Saturday, March 2, 2024**



**Solano College**



**Captain Bob's Dive Bar**  
**OPEN LATE!**

Fresh Dungeness crab and extra jumbo sized shrimp, pasta, salad and garlic bread. Rotisserie chicken option with special order. Delightful ice cream desserts available from IT'S-IT.

Enjoy Captain Bob's Dive Bar with a live band & dancing, plus frozen margaritas, pina colodas, micro brews on tap from Heretic and fine wine from Suisun Valley.

**\$75**

**Event Location & Time**  
Solano Community College  
Student Center/Bookstore (1400 Bldg.)  
4000 Suisun Valley Road  
Fairfield, CA 94534  
**Saturday, March 2nd**  
5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Dive Bar till about 10:00 p.m.



Early Bird price \$70 during November. Large parties of 20-38 may sit at one table at the \$70 price (no additional discount). Sponsorships start at \$500. Call Curt or Eileen at 707-864-7199.

**Welcome to the islands!  
Wear your island or nautical garb and have more fun!**

All proceeds benefit the SCC Educational Foundation. To purchase tickets call Eileen Amick at 707-864-7199 or go to our event webpage below:  
<https://foundation.solano.edu/event/2024-crab-shrimp-feed/>

THANKS TO OUR PAST MAJOR SPONSORS:



The Solano Community College Educational Foundation will hold a crab and shrimp feed on **Saturday, March 2, 2024** inside the 1400 building at 4000 Suisun Valley Road, in the city of Fairfield. The early bird price is \$70 through the month of November.

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

## Events I attended this week

**Sunday, January 14 and Monday, January 15**, I attended the MLK activities in Benicia and Vallejo respectively.

## 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](#)

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## Newsletter photo

A sign along the Vallejo Waterfront tells the history of Mare Island.  
Photo: John Glidden

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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.