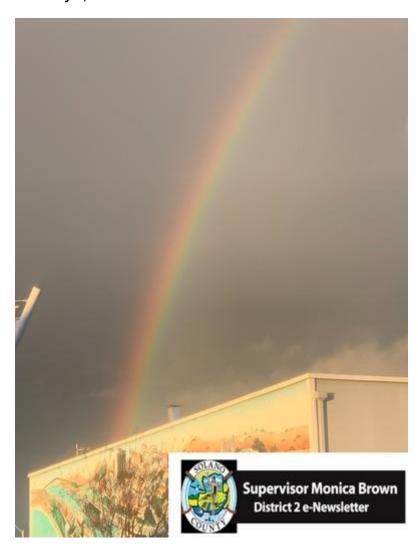


#### SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER

#### February 2, 2024



- 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



Follow on Twitter

# Important Numbers Resources and Dates

**District 2 Office** 

(707) 784-3031

Clerk of the Board & County Administrator's Office

(707) 784-6100

**Veterans Services** 

(707) 784-6590

**Health & Social Services** 

(707) 784-8400

Assessor/Recorder

(707) 784-6200

**Resource Management** 

(707) 784-6765

**Registrar of Voters** 

(707) 784-6675

Tax Collector/Treasurer/County Clerk

(707) 784-7485

Area Agency on Aging

## **Cathy Canaday**



I would like to dedicate this newsletter to my friend, Cathy Canaday. She was a friend, and a teacher. Cathy was born on Feb. 9, 1949 and passed away on Jan. 3, 2024. Her children attended Green Valley Intermediate school. I knew her two daughters, Becky and Trisha from the school. Cathy treated everyone with respect and kindness. She was a very giving person. I will miss her. The celebration of life is tomorrow Feb. 3, at 11am at the Community United Methodist Church, 1875 Fairfield Ave in

Fairfield.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE

**SUICIDE PREVENTION** 

800-273-8255

(707) 784-8960

(800) 772-1213

**U.S. Social Security** 

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

# Solano County closed during upcoming holidays



The Solano County Administrative Center will be closed in observance of Lincoln's Birthday on February 12 and President's Day on February 19.

#### Weekend storms

As the Bay Area recovers from storm impacts, wet weather will continue into next week with a strong storm coming on Sunday, bringing flood watches. For more information about the upcoming storms, click here.

PG&E is also warning about possible power outages due to the approaching winter storms.

"This sort of system brings a strong possibility of power outages, especially with gusty winds that could send debris onto our power lines or uproot trees that could also fall on our power lines as well, a PG&E spokesperson said. "Our Electric Operations teams are ready to address power outages as they happen and will begin to work on restoring power ASAP as long as it is safe to do so."

To receive outage alerts from PG&E, clickhere.

### Information this week

### State Senate Candidate Forum

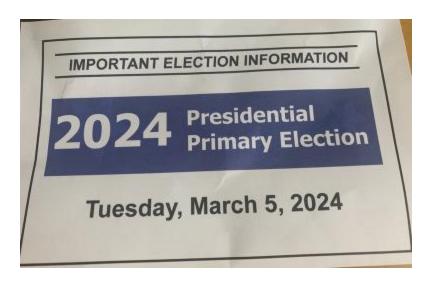


The Benicia High School Debate Team is hosting a candidate forum for the California State Senate District 3 race on Friday, February 2, from 5:30 to 7:30pm at Benicia High School - PAB Room, 1101 Military W.

This event is an excellent opportunity for Benicia and Senate District 3 residents to meet their next State Senator and learn more about where all the candidates stand on the issues.

For more information,

#### **Ballot materials**



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.

### "Black Artists in America" at the Crocker Art Museum

**CROCKER** art museum

The Crocker Art Museum is announced that *Black Artists in America: From Civil Rights to the Bicentennial* will be on view from February 4 through May 19.

Featuring more than 50 works, *Black Artists in America* illustrates the maturation of the civil rights movement, the growing activism of Black artists throughout the 1960s, and the battle for greater recognition and rights in the early 1970s.

The museum is located at 216 O St, Sacramento, CA 95814.

For more information, click here.

# **Diaper Drive**



In the month of February, the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council will host a diaper drive to ensure local families have access to clean diapers.

# California lawmakers backpedal on new electricity rates rule based on customer income

A group of Democratic state lawmakers on Tuesday announced an effort to roll back a rule that requires the state's major utility companies to set all electricity and gas rates based on customer income instead of energy use.

To read more, click here.

# Workforce Development Board releases ARPA nonprofit Infrastructure grant application

GRANT APPLICATION OPENS FEB. 1, 2024

# Solano County Nonprofit Infrastructure Grant Program



Need to update your operations to help modernize how you offer services? Apply today to strengthen your administrative model.

Nonprofit organizations can receive funding to upgrade technological & administrative infrastructure

#### **ELIGIBLE NONPROFITS ARE:**

- Based in Solano County
- · An IRS-classified nonprofit
- Operating before Jan. 31, 2021
- Can attest to COVID-19 impacts

If you meet ARPA eligibility requirements and complete an application, you could qualify for grant funding.

INFORMATIONAL SESSION WEBINAR AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 7TH AT 11:30AM

#### FOR BEST CONSIDERATION, APPLY BY FEB 26, 2024

For program details, webinar registration information and to complete an application, visit us at: solanoemployment.org/funding







The Workforce Development Board (WDB) of Solano County has launched its Nonprofit Infrastructure Grants program.

This grant program is open to any interested and qualified 501(c) organization providing employment and training-related services in Solano County.

The purpose of the grant program is to support nonprofits in bringing their operations, such as administrative and technological infrastructure, up to speed to respond to the new post-COVID economy and help mitigate COVID-19's negative economic impacts. This program is funded as part of the County of Solano's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) strategy. The WDB anticipates awarding approximately \$200,000 through this program with average grants expected to be between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

The application period will remain open until funds have been fully utilized. For best consideration, however, applications should be submitted by **February 26.** 

Please note the WDB will host an informational webinar on February 7 at 1:30pm via Zoom. More information and the application can be found on the WDB website at https://solanoemployment.org/funding/.

# Survey: San Francisco Bay Ferry wants to hear from you



The San Francisco Bay Ferry is asking residents to take a quick 5minute survey on how the service can best serve the Bay Area in the coming years.

San Francisco Bay Ferry is a ferry transit service of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA). Bay Area residents now have an opportunity to help WETA finalize a Ferry Service Vision for the year 2050 by prioritizing:

- Affordability
- Service frequency and speed
- Expansion
- Environmental sustainability

The survey is available in English, Spanish and Simplified Chinese. Survey participants will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$50 Clipper Card or a San Francisco Bay Ferry water bottle at the end of the survey.

To take the survey, click here.

# Here's why gas always costs more in California

Gas prices in the United States have slid from their <u>all-time peak</u> in fall 2022, but there are drivers in at least one state who still pull up to the pump and cringe.

The current average gas price in the US is \$3.10. In California, it's \$4.49, according to AAA.

### MTC to Seek Legislature's Approval to Put Bay Area Transportation Measure on 2026 Ballot

The Metropolitan
Transportation
Commission (MTC) has
voted to seek state
legislation which would
enable Bay Area voters to



consider a transportation revenue measure as early as November 2026, the agency announced this week

"The proposed measure aims to advance a climate-friendly Bay Area transportation system that is safe, accessible and convenient for all," officials said in an official announcement. "This includes preserving and enhancing public transit service; making transit faster, safer and easier to use; repairing local streets and roads; and improving mobility and access for all people, including pedestrians, bicyclists and scooter and wheelchair users."

MTC expects any new transportation measure it pursues to generate at least \$1 billion annually. The Commission has not yet identified a revenue source for the proposed measure.

MTC is the transportation planning, financing and coordinating agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

For more information, click here.

# BAHFA Advisory Committee recommends placing housing bond on 2024 ballot

The Bay Area Housing Finance Authority's Advisory Committee has adopted a resolution recommending that the BAHFA Board and the Executive Board of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) submit for consideration by voters in all nine Bay Area counties this November a general obligation bond measure of as much as \$20 billion to produce more affordable housing, preserve existing affordable housing and protect current residents from displacement.

Voter approval of a \$20 billion bond is projected to spur the creation of some 80,000 additional affordable homes around the Bay Area in the coming years, the committee said.

To allow local governments to determine how best to produce and preserve affordable housing in their own communities, 80 percent

of the money from the proposed bond would go directly to the nine counties as well as to four cities: San Jose, Oakland, Santa Rosa and Napa. BAHFA would invest the remaining 20 percent in affordable housing developments throughout the Bay Area, while also developing new resources to support affordable housing development after the bond money is fully spent.

BAHFA was established by the state Legislature in 2019 to support the construction of new affordable housing and the preservation of existing housing across the nine-county Bay Area. It is governed by the BAHFA board, which is composed of the same members as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and by the ABAG Executive Board. As required by state law, BAHFA's nine-member Advisory Committee is comprised of members with expertise in affordable housing finance, production, preservation and/or tenant protections.

For more information, click here.

# Here's the Average Social Security benefit at ages 62 and 67

Your claiming age has significant bearing on what you'll receive from America's top retirement program.

There's arguably no social program more vital to the financial well-being of our nation's seniors than Social Security. Every year, Social Security pulls more than 21.7 million people out of poverty, including close to 15.4 million adults aged 65 and over.

To read more, click here.

# Neuroscience says 1 simple habit boosts brain connectivity, learning, and memory

Research has long indicated that <u>writing by hand</u> carries significant benefits over typing with a keyboard, especially when it comes to <u>learning</u>, <u>remembering</u>, and <u>creativity</u>. Now, researchers from Norway may have discovered exactly why that is the case by investigating the underlying neural networks involved in both writing and typing.

To read more, click here.

# New twist on popular mail scam hitting Southern California

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is advising residents to keep an eye on their online shopping accounts for any unusual activity as a new variant of an old scam is making the rounds. A brushing scam is when somebody sends you stuff, unordered, because it lets them give themselves a great review in your name. It could mean that the scammers have created an account in your name, or taken over your account, on online retail sites. Or even created new accounts (maybe lots of them) in other names tied to your address." If you get something you didn't order, you can make a report on the FTC website. And remember, you never have to pay for something you didn't order.

To read more, click here.

# SNAP benefits update as 35 states to receive payment boost

SNAP recipients who have children will get a sizable boost to their food benefits this summer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced.

Thirty-five states, Washington D.C., all five U.S. territories and four tribes will be joining the launch of the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) this year. According to the <u>USDA</u>, the new benefit is expected to help an estimated 21 million children get adequate nutrition over the summer months, and has been put in place to help tackle food insecurity and poverty for vulnerable families.

To read more, click here.

### **Public hearings**

# Notice of Public Availability of Refinery Flare Minimization Plan Annual Updates



The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is releasing the 2022 Flare Minimization Plan (FMP) Annual Updates for public review and comment. The five Bay Area refineries prepared these plans subject to Regulation 12, Rule 12: Flares at Refineries.

Under Regulation 12-12, each FMP Annual Update must include:

 New prevention measures identified during investigations of flaring events that occurred during the period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022;

- A description of the prevention measures previously taken or currently planned to reduce flare emissions at the refinery;
- Commitment to implement all new feasible prevention measures expeditiously; and
- A 30-day public comment review period

The plan updates are now available for review on the Air District's Flare Minimization Plans web page.

The deadline to submit public comments regarding the 2022 FMP Annual Updates is **Monday**, **February 26**.

Comments can be submitted the following ways:

- Mail to BAAQMD–FMP Update Public Comment, 375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105
- Email to <a href="mailto:compliance@baaqmd.gov">compliance@baaqmd.gov</a>

Be sure to identify which refinery, or refineries, your comment is applicable to.

After consideration of public comments received, the Air District will evaluate each refinery's Flare Minimization Plan Annual Update to determine whether it meets the requirements of Regulation 12-12 and will take final action in accordance with the regulation.

For any additional information, please visit the <u>Air District</u> website or email compliance@baaqmd.gov

# **Updates from around Solano County First 5 Solano Request for Applications**



The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission (First 5 Solano) has released its Request for Application ("RFA #2024-01) for its Annual Grants Program.

The Annual Grants Fund is designed for one-time projects to address the needs of children ages 0-5, their parents/caregivers, and/or providers of services to children ages 0-5 in Solano County.

The Commission has committed up to \$120,000 in annual grants for FY2024/25. Multiple grants of up to \$20,000 each will be awarded for up to a 1-year period from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

Applications will be accepted for a wide variety of activities that align with the First 5 Solano Strategic Plan Framework and address a gap in services, address a community disparity, and/or address a time sensitive community need.

A <u>mandatory</u> letter of intent is due by February 12 and applicants must also attend a <u>mandatory</u> grant development session. The complete application is due by **March 11 at 5pm**.

For the complete RFA, instructions for submitting a Letter of Intent and the application, click here.

### February calendar for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall

February 3: **Four Chaplains' Day Inter-Faith Service** Saturday, February 3rd, 2024; Four Chaplains were Methodist minister the Reverend George L. Fox, Reformed Church in America minister the Reverend Clark V. Poling, Reform Rabbi Alexander D. Goode (PhD), and Roman Catholic priest Father John P. Washington.

- 4: Birthday of the organization known as **United Service Organizations** or USO.
- 5 Patty and Kevin Dinners watch for signups at bar
- 7 VFW AND Aux meeting is 1900 hours; Hot dogs;
- 9 hamburgers with Sons of The American Legion
- 12 Patty and Kevin Dinners watch for signups at bar
- 13 Mardis Gras;; Hot dogs with Boys Under the Hood
- 14 Valentine's Day; AMERICAN LEGION / AUX meet at 1900 hours
- 15 week of 15<sup>th</sup> is **The National Salute to Veteran Patients;** The observance of George Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22nd, 1732, is always the third Monday in February.
- 16 hamburgers with American Legion Auxiliary
- 19 Patty and Kevin Dinners watch for signups at bar; President's Day; official birthday of the United States Coast Guard Reserve. Officially set-up in the late 1930s as a "civilian"

reserve" operation, it was non-military in nature. The Coast Guard Reserve Act of 1939 was the earliest incarnation.

- 20 Veterans House Commission meeting
- 21 SONS AMERICAN LEGION meet at 1900 hours; Hot dogs;
- 23 hamburgers with VFW
- 24 Crab Feed Dinner, tickets at bar \$75 each
- 26 Patty and Kevin Dinners watch for signups at bar

The Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall is located at 1150 1st St, Benicia. For more information, click <u>here</u>.

# 2024 Veteran Home Rehab applications deadline



Rebuilding Together Solano County provides home rehabilitation services to veterans and surviving spouses of veterans, seniors and disabled homeowners residing in Solano County. The goal is to provide a safe and healthy living

environment for low-income veteran homeowners and community facilities.

Do you know of someone, or do you qualify yourself for the home rehabilitation program? How to apply:

- 1. Complete 2024 Veteran / Military Homeowner Application
- 2. No later than 03/31/2024 Mail the completed Application and all supporting documentation to RTSC, PO Box 5996, Vallejo, CA 94591.

Contact Rebuilding Together at: <a href="mailto:Ehoffman.rtsc@gmail.com">Ehoffman.rtsc@gmail.com</a> if you have additional questions or need an application mailed to you.

For more information and/or to apply, click here.

# HEC's Mental Health Training Program now accepting applications

The Health Education Council is actively recruiting interested Solano County adults 18+ who are interested in participating in a Spanish-only cohort for its Peers Helping Peers/Facilitadores Communitariosprogram, made possible through funding from

Solano County Public Health. This program was originally created in 2020 (in Sacramento) with the following mission:

- to decrease mental health stigma throughout Sacramento County
- increase social connection and the ability of participants to serve as mental health supports for their peers
- to introduce participants to entry-level mental health jobs through community projects and paid internships

For more information, contact Nancy Ramirez *nramirez* @healthedcouncil.org or call (916) 512-3325.

## **FAST Connect – Upcoming Changes**

Fairfield and Suisun Transit (FAST) Connect will be making a change to pick-up and drop-offs beginning Thursday, February 1.

Micro transit riders will be directed to dedicated pick-up and dropoff points when booking a trip in the app or when calling to schedule a ride. These pick-up and drop-off points will be less than ¼ mile from where riders schedule their ride.

FAST Connect ADA riders will continue to be picked up and dropped off at their requested locations.

To keep vehicles moving quickly, reduce wait times, and make use of existing bus stop infrastructure, consolidated pick-up and drop-off points will be used. Riders will be able to select their pick-up and drop-off points based on their chosen origin and destination, whether riders' book via the Ride Pingo app or call FAST Customer Service/Dispatch to schedule their trip.

Questions? Contact FAST Customer Service/Dispatch at (707) 422-2877.

# Black History Month at the Benicia Library



The Benicia Public Library and the We Are ALL Related Coalition announces a series of dynamic and inspiring events in celebration of Black History Month throughout February, honoring the rich heritage, contributions, and resilience of the Black community.

Events will be held at 2pm, on Sundays February 11, 18, and 25, at the Benicia Public Library, inside the Dona Benicia Room, 150 E L Street.

<u>Sunday, February 11: Celebrating Black Ballet:</u> Join for a celebration of National Ballet Day and Black History with a film double feature for the entire family! At 2 p.m. see "Dancing in the Light," a film that tells the inspiring story of Janet Collins, the first African American prima ballerina.

At 2:30 p.m. watch "Ballerina's Tale," the story of Misty Copeland, the first African American woman to be named principal dancer of the legendary American Ballet Theater.

Sunday, February 18: The Story of Fred Hampton: Join for a screening of the film "Judas and the Black Messiah." This highly acclaimed, award-winning 2021 film is based on a true story including archive footage, starring Daniel Kaluuya—who won an Academy Award and a Golden Globe for his portrayal of Fred Hampton. Rated R.

Sunday, February 25: Meet the Author/Illustrator: Celebrate Black Children's Book Week with award-winning author and illustrator Cozbi A. Cabrera, winner Caldecott and Coretta Scott King honors for a special presentation about her books and artistic process. The program will include an art activity. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

For more information, click here.

#### Food is Free

Free food is available every second Saturday of each month from 10am to noon between the Benicia Library and Senior Center. Brought to you by ARPA funds from Solano County. Sponsored by the Benicia Public Library and Food is Free Bay Area.

# Vallejo school district releases online survey in search of new superintendent



The Vallejo City Unified School (VCUSD) District Board of Education is asking for the community's help in selecting the next VCUSD superintendent. Current Superintendent William Spalding announced last month that he will be retiring this June.

To ensure this is a collaborative and inclusive process, the board is providing an anonymous online survey and encourages community participation. This is an

opportunity to receive input from students, staff, parents, and community.

This survey will be open from until February 2.

Please follow the link below to provide your input. <u>Take the Survey</u> Now

# **Solano County has partnered with Smartpay**

Solano County has partnered with Smartpay to allow residents to pay their property taxes via monthly payment. For more information, click here.

# Vallejo seeks applicants for citizens academy



The city of Vallejo announced the launch of its first-ever Citizens Academy, an initiative aimed at giving residents insight into city government and its operations. The Vallejo Citizens Academy will be an 11-week interactive educational course. designed to foster civic engagement, enabling participants to make a meaningful impact on our community.

The academy will begin on March 6. Classes will be held from 6 to 8pm in the Vallejo Room, located below the JFK Library. To ensure an interactive and engaging experience, class size will be limited to 25 participants. A nominal fee of \$25 will cover the cost of materials and light dinners provided throughout the duration of the program.

The academy will meet twice a month from March to August 2024

For more information and to submit your application, please visit <a href="www.myvallejo.com/CitizensAcademy">www.myvallejo.com/CitizensAcademy</a> or contact Natalie Peterson at <a href="matalie.peterson@cityofvallejo.net">natalie.peterson@cityofvallejo.net</a>

# **Community Investment Fund - Annual Grants 2024**



The Solano County Administrator's Office is seeking highly qualified agencies to tackle the highest priority needs in Solano County. Through a human service needs assessment process, the Solano County Board of Supervisors identified the top six most pressing needs as follows:

- 1. Mental Health
- 2. Housing
- 3. Homelessness
- 4. Early Education
- 5. Youth Development
- 6. Safe and Stable Environments for Children

This assessment resulted in the development of a Community Investment Fund (CIF) with a 3-pronged funding approach. This Request for Proposals (RFP) addresses the implementation of an Annual Grants Program outlined in the Community Investment Fund.

The County Administrator's Office is seeking proposals to support the implementation of annual grants that address one or more of the above six most pressing needs in the county. To support the Annual

Grant Program, the Solano County Board of Supervisors has allocated up to \$365,000 to be distributed to successful applicants. Proposers may apply for funding in either of the following funding tiers:

A) Tier 1: Funding up to \$75,000 to implement larger projects, or B) Tier 2: Funding up to \$25,000 to support smaller community projects.

Only non-profit organizations are eligible to apply.

Responses due: March 11 by 5pm.

For more information, click here.

### Teen photo contest



Solano County Library's teen photo contest is returning this year!

#### It runs from February 1 to March 8.

Teens between the ages of 12 and 18 are encouraged to submit their photos in one or more of the following categories:

- -Album Cover (a photo you think would make a great music album cover)
- -Architecture
- -Animals
- -Food/Drinks
- -Landscapes
- -Library (pictures of the inside/outside of your favorite library)

- -Nature
- -People & Portraits
- -Special Effects
- -Your Choice/Miscellaneous

Ten (10) winning photos (one from each category) will be chosen and posted in the library branches! Also, one grand prize winner will be chosen from the 10 winning photos! The grand prize winner will get one session learning from a professional photographer!

For more information, click here.

### **Virtual Effective Black Parenting Class**

Effective Black Parenting is a nationally acclaimed, culturally relevant program for parents and caregivers of African American children. Designed with the guidance and direction of African American parenting scholars, the program fosters: effective family communication, healthy African American identity, extended family values, child growth and development, and positive self-esteem.

Winter 2024 virtual sessions are from February 6 to March 28 on Tuesday/Thursday from 6 to 7:30pm. Class fee is \$20, grants and scholarships are available.

To register, click here.

### Sandbags Available for pick-up



Fairfield residents may pick up sandbags Monday through Thursday at the Public Works Corporation Yard, 420 Gregory Street from 7:30am to 3:30pm. Sand is available at two locations: the corner of Pittman and Cordelia Roads and the southeast corner of Allan Witt Park off Woolner Avenue. Both locations have a 10-bag limit and are "self-serve" so bring a

shovel.

Sandbags should be filled only half full as smaller bags pack tighter and are easier to handle. Overfilled bags are unstable when stacked and can leave gaps that allow water to flow through.

To report localized flooding, please contact the Public Works Operations Division, during normal business hours. For after hours, please call the Police Department at (707) 428-7300. For more information and winter readiness tips, visit www.fairfield.ca.gov/storm.

### **Habitat career opportunities**



The Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity is currently hiring for several positions, including a Community Outreach Coordinator (formerly known as the Volunteer Coordinator).

This position is responsible for the outreach, recruitment and coordination of all volunteers/volunteer groups. This is a full-time, hourly, benefitted position.

For more information, click here.

# Solano County Residents get involved with STA Advisory Committees



The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) is currently seeking to fill various open positions on its Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), the Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC), and Paratransit

Coordinating Council (PCC).

The BAC and PAC advise the STA on the development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities as an active mode of transportation in Solano County. To accomplish this, committee members assist the STA to develop countywide transportation plans and projects and provide funding recommendations for active transportation projects.

The PCC works on countywide senior and disabled transit issues as required by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and makes recommendations on transit and paratransit funding, claims and coordination.

The openings include:

#### Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

City of Dixon

#### Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)

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

#### Paratransit Coordinating Council (PCC)

Public Agency – Education member

For more information on the <u>BAC Open Positions, click</u>
<u>here; click here for more information on the PAC Open</u>
<u>Positions, and here for information on PCC Open Positions</u>

# 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.

### **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 **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

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 <a href="https://artsbenicia.org/adult-classes">https://artsbenicia.org/adult-classes</a> and <a href="https://artsbenicia.org/youth-art-classes">https://artsbenicia.org/youth-art-classes</a>

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

### 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 exhbit 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.

### **Probability 2**

You are cordially invited to Probability 2, an interactive exhibit of sound sculptures at the NY2CA Gallery, 617 1st Street in Benicia. The exhibit runs from February 1 through March 17, Thursday to Sunday, noon to 5 pm.

Probability 2 is a new exhibition of interactive sound sculptures made collaboratively by visual artists Bodil Fox and Larnie Fox. The exhibition will be on display at NY2CA Gallery and combines materials favored by Bodil (copper, concrete, wire, felt, mixed media surface treatment) with those favored by Larnie (bamboo, plywood, recycled materials, motors).

The exhibition will be anchored by a performative installation covering the main walls with self-playing and playable wall-mounted amplified sound sculptures.

## Solano County District Attorney's Office Awarded Grant from the Office of Traffic Safety for Specialized DUI Prosecution Team



The Solano County District Attorney's Office has once again received funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to maintain a specialized team to prosecute alcohol and drug-impaired driving cases, the DA's office announced this week. The grant is for \$418,000.

The specialized prosecution team will also partner with the statewide Traffic Safety

Resource Prosecutor Training Program (TSRP) to provide training to other prosecutors and investigators, as well as collaborate with law enforcement agencies on best practices for handling and managing driving under the influence (DUI) cases.

Last year, the prosecution team filed 1436 DUI cases, including 89 DUI drug cases and 32 DUI combined alcohol and drug cases. The grant program runs through September 2024.

### Upcoming events in Solano County

Exploring Vallejo's Rich Character and Culture: A Conversation at Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum



Join the Vallejo Project on Saturday, February 3, from 10 to 11am, at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, located at 734 Marin Street in downtown Vallejo for an engaging exploration of Vallejo's character and culture. This event will center around the captivating images showcased in our 2024 calendar, serving as inspiration for a thought-provoking conversation.

Local youth artist Orobosa Olotu will also participate to add vibrancy to the discussion.

This event is a unique opportunity to delve into the heart of Vallejo's identity, guided by the visual narrative of our calendar and enriched by the insights of talented individuals. Don't miss this chance to connect with our community and celebrate the diverse tapestry of Vallejo.

For more information, email adjoa@vallejoproject.org

### Wine and Chocolate Walk



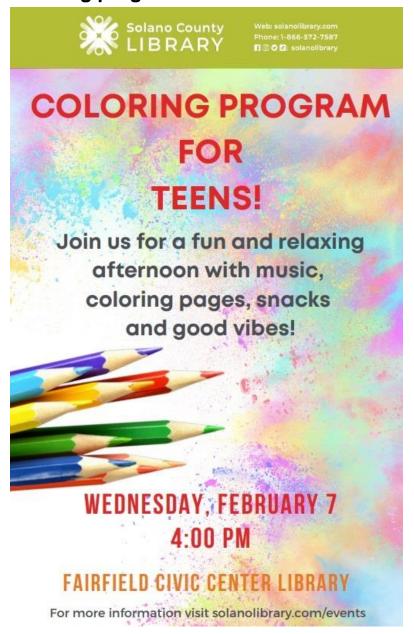
Stroll First Street in downtown Benicia with your sweetheart tasting fine wine and chocolate pairings inside downtown shops. **The walk is 1 to 5pm, Saturday, February 3.** 

Tickets are \$35 advance for a single ticket and \$65 advance for pair of tickets. Day of event all tickets are \$40-no price break on

buying a pair of tickets. Ticket price includes 15 tastes. Participants must be age 21 and over. Check-in starts at 12:30pm at Benicia Main Street, 90 First Street. Map of tasting locations and wristband will be provided per ticket holder at check-in.

Tickets are limited and can be purchased at Benicia Main Street, 90 First Street, or online here

### Coloring program for teens



**On Wednesday, February 7, at 4pm**, the Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky Street will be hosting a coloring program for

teens! This program will feature a variety of coloring pages, snacks and music.

For more information, click here.

### **Tobacco Free Solano 2023 Celebration**



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.

# **Inspiration-Reversal**



#### FAIRFIELD POET LAUREATE, SUZANNE BRUCE, IS HOSTING THE SECOND INSPIRATION----REVERSAL

#### POETS:

SEND ONLY THE TITLE OF YOUR POEM AND YOUR NAME TO FAIRFIELDPOETLAUREATE@GMAIL.COM BY FEB. 8. BRING TWO COPIES OF YOUR POEM TO THE EVENT(39 LINES OR LESS)

#### ARTISTS:

BRING YOUR CREATIVE MIND, LISTEN TO THE POEMS, AND CREATE AN ART PIECE INSPIRED BY THOSE WORDS!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024 10:00AM - 12:00 PM DUNNELL BURTON CENTER 3351 HILBORN ROAD, FAIRFIELD

FOLLOWING POETRY READING, ARTISTS WILL SELECT A POEM TO CREATE AN ART PIECE FOR FINISHED ARTWORK WILL BE REVEALED ON APRIL 13. QUESTIONS? EMAIL SUZANNE AT FAIRFIELDPOETLAUREATE@GMAIL.COM





The second Inspiration-Reversal poetry portion is coming up on **Saturday**, **February 10**, **from 10am to 12pm**, inside the Dunnell Burton Center, Fairfield, 3351 Hilborn Road. It is on the corner of Hilborn Road and Hillridge Drive. GPS does not give the correct local. It is next to the Girl Scouts Center at this corner.

Poets should send the title of your poem by February 8. Bring two copies of your poem: one for you to read from, and one for the artist's table.

# 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.

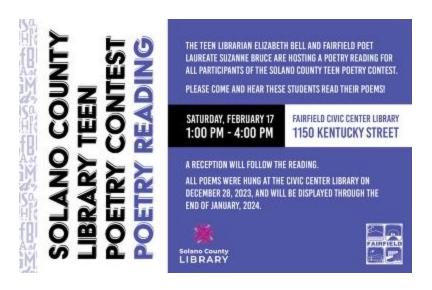
### **Meet the Doula Night**

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**



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

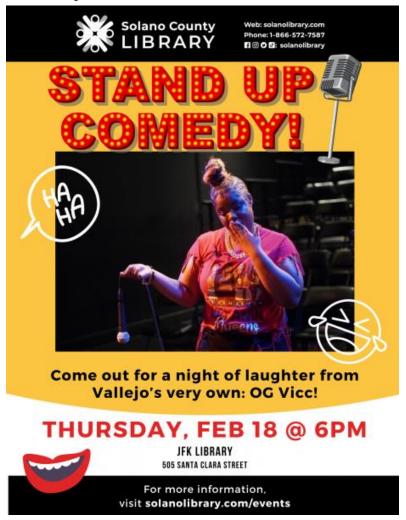


The Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA) of Solano County will hold a crab feed fundraiser at **6pm**, **Saturday**,

February 17 inside the Northbay Administrative Center, 4500 Business Center Drive in Fairfield.

To buy tickets, click here.

# **Comedy show**



Hailing from Vallejo, OG Vicc will have you cracking up from the start to the end. Come by yourself or a bring a friend!

The comedy show will begin at **6pm, Thursday, February 18** inside the Joseph Room, at the John F. Kennedy Public Library, 505 Santa Clara Street.

### 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 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!

### **GVRD Block Party**



The Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) will host a Black History Month "Homecoming" block party on **Saturday, February 24, from 12 to 5pm.** 

This free event will be held at Children's Wonderland Park, 360 Glenn Street in Vallejo. Join in the celebration of Black History Month with entertainment, food, vendors, and more.

# 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 <u>here</u>. For more information, contact Monique Sims at 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 <u>here</u>. If you are Interested in being a vendor, click <u>here</u>.

## **Open House**



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**



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. To register, click here.

#### Movers & Shakers Breakfast Summit

The Vacaville Chamber's annual Movers & Shakers Breakfast Summit will be held March 13, at 8am inside Vacaville Opera House, 560 Main Street, Vacaville.

This is the Vacaville Chamber's premier advocacy event of the year, bringing together policymakers and business leaders from throughout the county. The event will once again feature a State of the City presentation by Vacaville Mayor John Carli and City Manager Aaron Busch, along with a plated breakfast and networking.

Following the presentation, the city will be providing bus tours of select Vacaville sites for attendees to see first-hand what's in store for Vacaville's fantastic future.

For more information, click here.

"A Poetry Affair"



Fairfield Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce is hosting "A Poetry Affair," a gala to celebrate poetry and its purpose featuring past and present poets laureate from Solano County cities of Benicia, Fairfield, Suisun City and Vallejo with Special Guest: California State Poet Laureate Lee Herrick.

Poetry open mic following the reading of the poets laureate.

The gala will take place between 2 to 4pm, Saturday, March 16, inside the Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky Street, Fairfield.

# **Line Dancing Party**



Set your calendars for the 2nd Annual Line Dance party, scheduled from **1 to 6pm**, **Saturday**, **May 4** at the Benicia Clock Tower, 1189 Washington Street in the city of Benicia.

The event will celebrate Latin heritage, but there will be line dance instructors from all forms of line dancing. Dinner will be served around 3pm. There will also be resources for older adults.

For more information, and/or to buy a ticket, click here.

#### **Events I attended this week**

**Friday, January 26**, I attended the Beverly Hills Elementary School Early Learning Center walk-through. I am very happy for the community that is school is having a second life. Early education is what the future of society rests on.

**Saturday night, January 27**, I attend the Solano County Central Committee 2023 Awards Dinner. I won the Wyman Riley Award: "Monica Brown's Many achievements during a lifetime of service to the Democratic party." I was very honored to achieve this award from my peers.

**Thursday, February 1**, I attended the Rockville Citizen Advisory Committee, held at the Public Works Corporation Yard at 5pm. The issue was recommending if E-Bikes would be allowed into the park.

On a 3 to 2 vote, the recommendation is: Allow e-bikes (Class 1 only) to the park should only be implemented if the resourcing is provided to ensure that the park is a safe experience for all.

- 1. Staffing, volunteerism, and increased entrance fees are the most important elements for initial adoption.
- 2. Impact assessment to be performed at 6 months for the following; Trail Maintenance, Safety, and Parking.

### 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 <u>HERE</u> to access the website and follow on Facebook <u>@SolanoCountyJobs</u>. 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**

A rainbow seen in downtown Vallejo. Photo: John Glidden



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.