

SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER

December 20, 2024



A message from Supervisor Brown

BE CAREFUL: The following information came to my daughter as a text. She is sharing this information with me, so I can warn all of you.

THIS is a SPAM. PHISHING TEXT, it is false. Do not click any such links.

This is what was sent: A) "Your account has violated the usage agreement, as it has been detected that the account has been accessed from multiple locations. Please click here to restore account permissions (LINK GIVEN) Never click. Please submit the information with 12 hours as this may result in financial losses.

My daughter received this (Do not get caught) Her words.

1) They are relying on people's guilt and panic because everyone accesses accounts from multiple locations.



[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

(707) 784-8960

- 2) "Financial losses" is not a thing in this context
- 3) 12 hours isn't a standard amount of time in this context
- 4) They never specify what company of service it is.

It is my hope that the above information is helpful. Please be careful. - Monica

Holiday closures - Vallejo



CITY OF VALLEJO HOLIDAY CLOSURE

DECEMBER 24, 2024 - JANUARY 1, 2025

City offices will be closed in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays

City Hall will reopen on Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 9:00 AM

CITY OF VALLEJO
555 SANTA CLARA STREET
VALLEJO, CA 94590

FIRE/LIFE SAFETY EMERGENCIES: 911
MAINTENANCE EMERGENCIES: (707) 648-5235

CITYOFVALLEJO.NET
FACEBOOK.COM/CITYOFVALLEJO
INSTAGRAM.COM/CITYOFVALLEJO

Benicia

Upcoming City Office Closures

Winter Closure
December 23 - January 3

Solano County Library

Solano County Library will be closed on the following dates:

Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day

Wednesday, January 1, New Year's Day

Branches will close early at 12PM on Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) and Tuesday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

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

Information this week

Congratulations!



From the Benicia High School Debate Team:

"On Tuesday, August 20, six underclassmen walked into O-204 for the first debate team meeting of the school year. They sat alongside past team members, and, when asked why they wanted to debate, they looked around at the trophies, the State Championship pennant, the news clippings, and pictures of past tournaments and said, "We want to win trophies."

After four months of training, scrimmaging with teammates, and competing in a handful of tournaments, all six debaters have won trophies and earned distinction in the Bay Area competitive debate circuit.

Teammates Jacob Jerdee, Barret Maun, Matthew Bown, and Rocky Chestnut won trophies at the November Golden Gate Speech Association Tournament at San Ramon Valley High School, novice division. Sophomores Max Smith and Wyatt Hanford won speaker awards in the recent John Lewis Silicon Valley Urban Debate League online tournament. Smith placed 2nd and Hanford 9th out of 60 novice debaters. The top ten-win trophies.

"The novices have been an absolute pleasure to work with," said Coach Tristan Keene. "While they came in with clear natural talents when it came to argumentation, critical thinking, and public speaking, they've also been committed to improving these skills - a few of them even debating senior team members in their first months on the team. What's more," she continued, "is that all of these students are encouraging and kind members of the community and bring so much fun and laughter to the team." Benicia alumni and Berkeley grad Keene is a former debate team member and coach and the ranking No. 1 college parliamentary

debater in the country. She coaches the BHS team whenever she is available.

All three teams will compete as Junior Varsity debaters in the new year when they compete at Santa Rosa Community College in their third GGSA tournament and at the Cal Invitational at UC Berkeley."

Congratulations!

Photo: L to R: Jacob Jerdee, Barrett Maun, Max Smith, Rocky Chestnut, Matthew Bown and Wyatt Hanford

Governor Newsom takes proactive action to strengthen robust state response to Bird Flu



Governor Gavin Newsom this week proclaimed a State of Emergency to streamline and expedite the state's response to Avian influenza A (H5N1), commonly known as "Bird Flu." This action comes as cases were detected in dairy cows on farms in Southern California, signaling the need to further expand monitoring and build on the coordinated

statewide approach to contain and mitigate the spread of the virus. The virus has spread in [16 states](#) among dairy cattle, following its [first confirmed detection](#) in Texas and Kansas in March 2024.

To date, no person-to-person spread of Bird Flu has been detected in California and nearly all infected individuals had exposure to infected cattle. California has already established the largest testing and monitoring system in the nation to respond to the outbreak.

This emergency proclamation will provide state and local agencies with additional flexibility around staffing, contracting, and other rules to support California's evolving response.

"This proclamation is a targeted action to ensure government agencies have the resources and flexibility they need to respond quickly to this outbreak. Building on California's testing and monitoring system — the largest in the nation — we are committed to further protecting public health, supporting our agriculture industry, and ensuring that Californians have access to accurate, up-to-date information. While the risk to the public remains low, we will continue to take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of this virus."

Ongoing efforts to prevent spread and serious infection

California has mobilized a comprehensive cross-agency response to Bird Flu in dairy cattle and poultry farms to minimize farm worker exposures, reduce raw dairy product contamination, and mitigate

the spread of the virus. The state has enlisted local, state, and federal government technical and operational expertise to support all facets of the response; worked to educate the public, health professionals, employers, and workers on prevention and control measures to reduce the risk of exposure to Bird Flu; provided comprehensive information for employers and workers on personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements; and distributed millions of pieces of PPE to high-risk workers at dairy farms.

Through coordinated public awareness efforts between the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), and other agencies, the state is leading a cross-agency response that includes [timely public updates](#), multilingual [outreach](#) to dairy and poultry workers, targeted social media efforts to promote preventive practices, [online and printed resources for the public](#), and media interviews to keep Californians informed. Additionally, the state is ensuring that agriculture workers have access to additional doses of seasonal flu vaccine from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reduce concurrent flu risks.

Officials have also been working in close collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local health and agricultural officials, as part of a whole-of-government effort to coordinate, implement, and ensure timely surveillance and investigation of potential cases of Bird Flu.

(This problem may lead to an egg shortage).

Bird flu in the United States

Bird Flu was first detected in the United States in the wild bird population in South Carolina in January 2022, and in the wild bird population in California in July 2022. On March 25, 2024, an outbreak of Bird Flu in dairy cows was first reported in Texas and Kansas, and CDFA took immediate action to monitor for Bird Flu infections in California herds. Since then, there have been 61 total reported confirmed cases of Bird Flu infection in humans across seven states, including 34 reported human cases in California.

On August 30, 2024, following its detection in [13 other states](#), Bird Flu was confirmed in a dairy cow in Central California, and the California Department of Public Health immediately activated its Medical Health Coordination Center.

A copy of the emergency proclamation can be found [here](#).

Social Security Fairness Act takes big step towards passage



A House-passed bill that would expand Social Security benefits to millions of Americans just got a lifeline in the Senate.

Senate Majority Chuck Schumer last week started the process for a final vote on the [Social Security Fairness Act](#), which would eliminate two federal policies that keep a portion of Americans from getting their full Social Security benefits, including cops, fire fighters and teachers.

To continue reading, click [here](#).

New California laws for 2025

From the San Francisco Chronicle:

California lawmakers and [Gov. Gavin Newsom](#) approved more than a thousand laws this year on topics ranging from environmental regulation to traffic rules.

Food delivery services like Uber Eats and Doordash have become ubiquitous over the past several years. In some circumstances, like if a person lives in a gated complex or is purchasing alcohol, the customer must receive the order directly from the delivery person instead of having it left at their door. Now, customers will have access to a bit more info about the person coming to their home, in order to bolster safety. AB375 by Assembly Member Laurie Davies, R-Laguna Niguel, requires third-party food delivery platforms to provide the customer with the first name of their driver, as well as a photo of that person. It goes into effect on March 1, 2025.

Over the past two years, at least a dozen school districts across California passed policies requiring educators to notify parents if students request to use different pronouns, a new name or otherwise identify as transgender. In response, the Legislature [passed AB1955](#) by Assembly Member Chris Ward, D-San Diego, banning such policies. Though the law doesn't go into effect until Jan. 1, the passage of the measure didn't stop at least one district from [moving forward with its policy](#).

New housing – and new crackdowns on cities that don't build it

- San Francisco's "doom loop" narrative has made its way to the California Capitol. AB2488 allows San Francisco to create a new downtown financing district. Ting, who wrote the bill, says it offers a two-part solution to the city's woes

by generating economic activity in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic that decimated the city's workforce, and lessening the housing supply shortage. Newsom, however, vetoed a separate bill that would have sped up office-to-housing conversions.

- California has seen a boom in accessory dwelling unit construction over the past several years thanks to new state laws easing permitting and construction. Now, SB1211 by Skinner could ramp things up even further: The law increases the number of ADUs allowed on multifamily properties that can be approved quickly.
- As the state has faced its crippling housing crisis, it has passed numerous laws cracking down on cities that don't do their part to accommodate and build more homes. SB1037 by Wiener gives the attorney general power to impose penalties on local governments that violate certain state housing laws, including fees of up to \$50,000 per month and the costs of prosecuting the case in court.

More benefits for California workers

- As climate change-fueled wildfires and extreme weather continue to worsen, lawmakers have sought to protect workers impacted by hazardous conditions. SB1105 by Sen. Steve Padilla, D-Chula Vista, allows agricultural workers to use paid sick days for preventive care, in the event that extreme heat, smoke or other natural hazards would make working outdoors dangerous. Newsom vetoed, however, a bill that would have allowed farmworkers to file worker's compensation claims for heat-related illnesses suffered while working.
- Thanks to AB2123 by Assembly Member Diane Papan, D-San Mateo, it will no longer be legal for employers to require employees to use up accrued vacation time before they can access their benefits under California's Paid Family Leave program. The program allows workers to take paid time off in order to care for a sick family member or bond with a new child.

MCE's 2024 Impact Report



[MCE's 2024 Impact Report](#) has been

published! MCE is a not-for-profit public agency which offers renewable power at stable rates, reduce energy-related greenhouse gas

emissions, and reinvest millions of dollars in community benefit programs.

MCE provides electricity service to more than 1.5 million people in [38 member communities](#) in Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, and Solano Counties

California voucher program offering up to \$2,000 toward purchase of e-bike

A statewide incentive program launching this week will offer income-eligible Californians up to \$2,000 toward the purchase of a new electric bike.

The California E-bike Incentive Project aims to tackle pollution and increase access to transportation.

To continue reading, click [here](#).

Consumer Alert: No, USPS doesn't have your package. How to tell that text message is a scam

The Grinch is busy this Christmas season. There are countless bad guys who are out to ruin your holiday. The USPS text message scam is one of the more pervasive ones. I got two just last week. So, I started doing a bit of research. I chatted with the experts from [CNET](#) about their consumer survey asking folks about the holiday scam that concerns them the most.

“What survey respondents told us is actually a scam we see a lot this time of year, and that is non-delivery scams,” said Danni Santana, a CNET personal finance editor.

To continue reading, click [here](#).

Comments on the Draft EA/EIR on the San Francisco Bay Federal Channels Operation and Maintenance Dredging and Sediment Placement Activities, Dredging Years 2025-2034



Solano County submitted the following letter to the US Army Corps of Engineers and SF Bay Regional Water Board re: the Draft EA/EIR for maintenance dredging and sediment placement activities in San Francisco Bay.

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

Public hearings

State Route 37 Sears Point to Mare Island Improvement Project



State Route 37 is an important regional connection linking the north, east and west SF Bay Region following along the northern shore of San Pablo Bay. This 21-mile-long roadway from US 101 to I-80 connects job markets and housing within Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano counties.

The future of the State Route 37 Corridor requires finding solutions to traffic congestion, periodic flooding, and rising sea levels. But it will also require balancing transportation needs with protecting and enhancing sensitive marshland habitats. Planning a long-term solution presents an opportunity to provide bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and carpool options for all travelers, and enhance the quality of life for residents and build stronger local and regional economy for all. Caltrans is working with its [partner agencies](#), The Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the four North Bay County Transportation Agencies to develop a more resilient corridor.

- [Draft Supplemental Environmental Document \(PDF\)](#) is now available for review.
 - **Public Comment Period: Through February 3, 2025.** Comments may be submitted via the following methods:
 - Email to stateroute37@dot.ca.gov
 - Postal Mail addressed to:
Caltrans District 4
ATTN: Skylar Nguyen, Senior
Environmental Scientist
P.O. Box 23660, MS: 8B, Oakland, CA
94623-0660

**Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR)
Hybrid (In-Person and Virtual) Public Meeting.**

January 14, 2025, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Vallejo Room, located at the basement level of the John F. Kennedy (JFK) Library, 505 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA 94590

- - Virtual Meeting
Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85317647303>
Or by phone: (669) 900-6833
Webinar ID: 853 1764 7303

Updates from around Solano County

Art Walk



Art Walk

The Fairfield-Suisun City Visual Arts Association and Fairfield Arts invite you to Downtown Fairfield's 1st Artwalk
December 20, 4-7pm



Fairfield Arts
710 Jackson Street
Gordon's Music
810 Texas Street
Head Space
809 Texas Street
Cedars Corner Kitchen & Bar
801 Texas Street
El Caracol Mexican Restaurant
900 Texas Street
Matt Garcia Foundation
717 Texas Street
Jane Loveall Studio
831 Jackson Street
Casa Agave
731 Texas Street



www.fsvaa.art and www.fairfield-arts.com

Toll Authority approves measure to further increase Bay Area bridge tolls starting in 2026



The Bay Area Toll Authority approved new toll increases for Bay Area bridges on Wednesday, tacking on new charges for 2026 — despite an increase already set to

start in 2025, as well as commissioners' concerns about budget transparency, and resistance from the public.

The tolls already [set to increase on the first day of 2025](#), approved by voters as part of Regional Measure 3 in 2018, will go from \$7 to \$8 for two-axle cars and trucks and motorcycles driving across any of the seven bridges in the Bay Area. Drivers of vehicles with three or more axles will also see their tolls increase by a dollar.

To continue reading, click [here](#).

PROPOSED BRIDGE TOLL INCREASE

The Bay Area Toll Authority is considering a yearly increase in tolls for the Bay, Antioch, Benicia, Carquinez, Dumbarton, Richmond-San Rafael and San Mateo bridges starting in 2026.

Two-axle cars and trucks toll

Year	Increase on Jan. 1	FasTrak	License plate account	Invoice tolling
Current	\$7	\$7	\$7	\$7
2025*	\$8	\$8	\$8	\$8
2026	\$8.50	\$8.50	\$8.50	\$8.50
2027	\$9	\$9.25	\$10	\$10
2028	\$9.50	\$9.75	\$10.50	\$10.50
2029	\$10	\$10.25	\$11	\$11
2030	\$10.50	\$10.75	\$11.50	\$11.50

*Increase was approved by Bay Area voters in 2018

Source: Metropolitan Transportation Commission

BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

Annual Menorah lightings around Solano County



Travis Air Force Base, Thursday, Dec. 26 at 3 p.m.

Downtown Fairfield, Thursday, Dec. 26 at 5:30 p.m.

Downtown Vacaville, Friday, Dec. 27 at 3 p.m.

Rio Vista Waterfront, Saturday, Dec. 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Benicia City Park Gazebo, Sunday, Dec. 29 at 3 p.m.

Suisun Waterfront, Sunday, Dec. 29 at 6 p.m.

Jelly Belly Factory, Monday, Dec. 30 at 4 p.m.

Vallejo City Hall, Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 5 p.m.


Benicia Kwansaa event

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, December 27th

Benicia Black Lives Matter 4th Annual
Kwansaa Celebration

Benicia Veterans Hall
1150 First St, Benicia
6-8 pm



Kwansaa in the city of Vallejo

KWANZAA
12.28.24
6-9P





And Still We Rise!

Honoring: Boys & Girls Empowerment Group - Orlando Graham & Shawn Wilson | Cameron Clark - Dove | Owen Nuñez Brandão
Lighting of Candles, Speaker, Food, Cultural Entertainment & More
An Ashari Sowande Production: A Fundraising Gala for Black History, 2025

Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum 734 Marin St.
VNHM Solano County Arts Council KNB Consultant VTown Southerland Co
Recology & More: A generous contribution of \$10 per person or more.



The Homelessness and Drug Addiction Reduction Act



A press release from the Solano County District Attorney's Office:

On November 5, 2024, Prop 36 passed overwhelmingly throughout the state of California (68.4% in favor) and in Solano County with 70.16% of voters saying "Yes" in support of the proposition. As a result of this public mandate, the Solano County District Attorney's Office will enforce these provisions for repeat offenders.

Prop 36 is scheduled to go into effect on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, and it will address many of the unintended consequences of Prop 47. Prop 47, which passed in 2014, lowered criminal penalties for drug and theft crimes. Unfortunately, Prop 47 created a revolving door for repeat theft offenders, as they could continue to victimize our businesses and community members with little or no consequence. For over ten years now, our community has seen businesses close, criminals emboldened, and customers and employees watching helplessly as thefts occur.

Prop 36 will now hold repeat offenders accountable, in that they can now face felony charges for engaging in any theft with eligible prior convictions. Prop 36 will also allow felony charges for thefts that are committed at different times, different places, and against different victims, so long as the amount of property is over \$950.

Prop 36 will also increase the penalty for the use of illegal drugs, only upon a third offense, to a "treatment mandated felony," wherein the offender would be offered drug and mental health treatment. Only if the offender refuses such needed drug treatment, would the offender serve custody time. Lastly, Prop 36 includes more severe penalties for the trafficking of fentanyl.

"Holding repeat offenders accountable and making sure there are proportionate consequences for criminal actions is necessary if we want small businesses to prosper, people to feel safe, and those in need to get the necessary help," said District Attorney Krishna Abrams.

Solano Master Plan for Aging (MPA)



**INNOVATIVE
HEALTH
SOLUTIONS**

Solano County, in collaboration with Napa/Solano Area on Aging and Innovative Health Solutions (IHS), unveils 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.

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

Vacaville Announces Chris Polen as New Chief of Police



From the city of Vacaville:

Vacaville City Manager Aaron Busch announces the appointment of Vacaville Captain Chris Polen as the new Chief of Police, effective January 1, 2025.

A finalist in the 2021 Chief of Police nationwide recruitment and multi-dimensional interview process, Chief Polen brings more than 25 years of law enforcement experience and a deep commitment to the community in which he has lived for a lifetime.

Reflecting on his new role, Chief Polen stated, “It is both an honor and a privilege to be selected as the next Chief of Police in my hometown. I am committed to serving our City, fostering relationships forged by my predecessors, and providing leadership to the police department. I am especially excited about the strides we are making in technology with the new Real Time Information Center (RTIC) that will be activated in the early part of next year. This new technology along with our well-trained police staff and the support of our esteemed community will continue to make Vacaville a safe place to live.”

Chief Polen began his career in law enforcement in 1998 with the City of Suisun City Police Department before joining the Vacaville Police Department in 2000. Over the course of his career, he has served in various capacities, including Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, and Detective in the Investigative Services Section. He has held leadership roles as a Sergeant, Lieutenant, and most recently as Captain, overseeing many critical functions of the department including Investigative Services, Training, Internal Affairs, and Hiring and Recruitment.

A dedicated professional, Chief Polen holds a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice Management and a Master’s degree in Organizational Leadership from National University. He is a graduate of the prestigious Senior Management Institute for Police and the POST (Peace Officers Standards and Training) Executive Leadership Program.

City Manager Aaron Busch enthusiastically shared in his appointment of Chief Polen: “Chris’s extensive experience, leadership skills, and unwavering dedication to our community make him the ideal choice to lead the Vacaville Police Department into the future. I am confident that under his leadership, we will continue to

prioritize community safety and collaboration across all City departments to maintain and enhance Vacaville’s outstanding quality of life.”

Outgoing Chief of Police Ian Schmutzler also expressed his support: “I am thrilled that Chris Polen will succeed me as the next Chief of Police. Over the past four years, I have had the privilege of working closely with Chris, and his passion for serving our community is unmatched. His leadership, work ethic, and empathy make him the perfect choice to guide the department and continue ensuring that Vacaville remains a safe and welcoming place to live, work, and visit.”

Chief Polen has been instrumental in guiding the department through significant challenges, including the tragic loss of Officer Matthew Bowen earlier this year. His focus on leadership, collaboration, and community engagement has been central to the department’s success and will remain a cornerstone of his tenure as Chief.

As Chief Polen steps into this new role, he will lead a talented team of dedicated law enforcement professionals committed to serving and protecting Vacaville. His vision includes not only enhancing public safety but also strengthening partnerships with residents, businesses, and schools to ensure that Vacaville continues to thrive as one of the safest cities in Northern California.

Soltrans holiday schedule

SolTrans HOLIDAY SERVICE CALENDAR						
DECEMBER 2024 / JANUARY 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		December 24 Christmas Eve SATURDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE	December 25 Christmas NO SERVICE	December 26 REGULAR SERVICE SCHEDULE	27 REGULAR SERVICE SCHEDULE	28 REGULAR SERVICE SCHEDULE
29 REGULAR SERVICE SCHEDULE	30 REGULAR SERVICE SCHEDULE	December 31 New Years Eve SATURDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE	January 1 New Years Day NO SERVICE	January 2 REGULAR SERVICE SCHEDULE RESUMES		

For schedules and more info: SolTrans.org

SolTrans will have Holiday service hour reductions for the upcoming holidays Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve, and New Years Day.

There will be no service on Christmas Day and New Years Day (December 25 and January 1, 2025). SolTrans Local, Express, and Paratransit buses will NOT operate on Wednesday, December 25, and Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

Saturday Service Days- Christmas Eve and New Years Eve (December 26 and 31, 2024) SolTrans Local, Express, and Paratransit buses will operate according to their Saturday

Schedule, meaning no service on local school trippers 15, 17, and 38 and no service on Express Green Line and Rt 82.

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

Journalism Program Returns to Solano College



Student journalism has returned to Solano Community College as the Solano Pulse:

Solano Community College has started offering Journalism courses for their students after a six-year hiatus. With the frequent decline of newsrooms, it's a breath of fresh air to see the "tempest" storm up a new group of aspiring writers.

The return of journalism has offered a chance for students to explore a new career path for themselves at Solano.

To continue reading, click [here](#).

Take my tree, please!



From the city of Benicia:

Take advantage of a convenient community service and fundraiser from Benicia's Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venture Crew. You can drop off your tree or register for pickup

at your home or business. Once recycled, the trees are chipped and used for ground cover on city of Benicia properties.

To register for pickup, visit BeniciaScouts.org or call the tree recycle hotline at (707) 551-4520. Appointments are required for pickup.

Tree Drop Off/Pickup Dates:

- Saturday, December 28
- Sunday, December 29
- Saturday, January 4, 2025
- Sunday, January 5, 2025
- Saturday, January 11, 2025

Drop Off Locations:

- Benicia Community Park (behind Matthew Turner School)
- First Baptist Church on Southampton Rd.

Flocked trees are accepted. Please have your tree out by 9 a.m.

Donations are welcome! Make checks payable to BSA Christmas Tree Recycling. Attach the donation to your tree or mail it to:

Benicia Scouts Christmas Tree Recycling
PO Box 485
Benicia, CA 94510.

This project is being run in full cooperation with the city of Benicia and Republic Services.

To register a pickup, click [here](#).

Holiday Reminders

From the city of Benicia:

- Be mindful—Eat or share all the holiday food you make. Compost food scraps from cooking, scrape plates into kitchen pail/compost bin after meals, and compost food soiled paper plates and napkins. Disposable (including compostable) utensils go in the trash.



- Remove any batteries from holiday decorations and dispose of them properly. Locations to dispose of batteries:

- In a sealed plastic bag by your recycle cart (not in it)
- Benicia Public Library (near restrooms), 150 E L Street
- City Hall entrance, 250 E L street
- Pedrotti Ace Hardware in the Southampton Shopping Center
- City Corporation Yard's public HHW drop-off, 2400 East 2nd Street, open Saturdays 9 a.m. to noon.

- Ribbon and metallic wrapping paper are not recyclable. Reusable gift bags are the best choice.


Effective Black Parenting Classes Hosted by Solano County Office of Education



Effective Black Parenting Workshop

Join our Effective Black Parenting 16-session workshop to learn valuable tips and strategies for raising happy and healthy black children. Virtual and in-person options to attend.

 545 Columbus Parkway
Vallejo, CA

 Tuesdays and Thursdays
January 7 - February 28, 2025

 mridgle@solanocoe.net
cjenkins@solanocoe.net
(707)646-7693



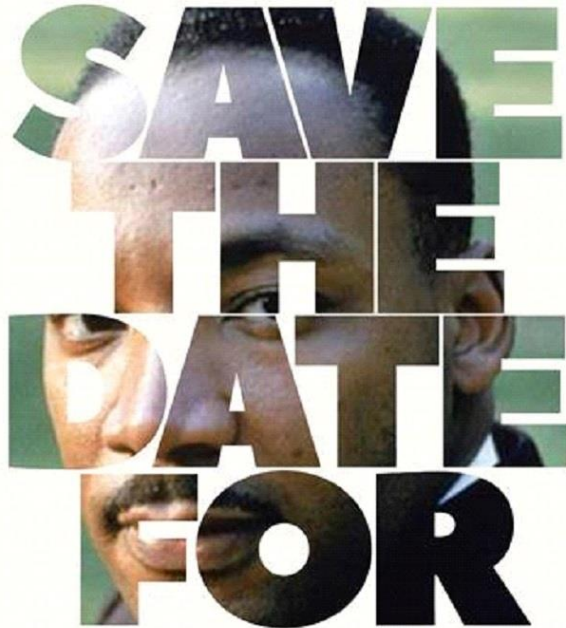
Solano County Office of Education – Foster and Homeless Youth Services is offering Effective Black Parenting Classes, a promising practice recommended by the [Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearing House](#) that supports the nurturing and development of healthy African American/Black children.

Classes will be offered on Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5 to 6 p.m. from January 7 – February 28, 2025, virtually and in person.

To register, please click [here](#).

For more information, contact Ms. Morgandy Ridgle at mridgle@solanocoe.net, (707) 646-7693 or Ms. Candace Jenkins at cjenkins@solanocoe.net, (707) 399-4863.

Martin Luther King, Jr. 2025, Save the Date



MLK DAY MARCH AND PROGRAM
JANUARY 20, 2025

Host: NAACP VALLEJO BRANCH #1081

Email: info.naacpvallejo1081@gmail.com

The NAACP Vallejo will be hosting the MLK Jr. Day March and Program on Monday, January 20, 2025.

Sheriff's Citizens Academy begins meeting Jan 22



The 2025 Citizens' Academy with the Solano County Sheriff's Office begins Jan. 22.

Participants in the 10-week course will meet 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays and have two Saturday daytime classes to give hands-on experiences. Classes are at various

Sheriff's Office locations.

To continue reading, click [here](#). To apply, click [here](#).

DREAM Team Newsletter December 2024 Issue

The Diabetes Research Education and Management (DREAM) Team Newsletter December 2024 Issue is here! This issue

provides updates on the Mobile Diabetes Education Center (MOBEC) serving Solano County, Success with Diabetes and the National Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) Lifestyle Change Program including Coach Training.

This edition also highlights the continuing efforts from the Pharm2Home Initiative, a global effort to provide education and support for diabetes awareness prevention and management; our new member and some other exciting news for 2025.

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

Solano County jobs

If you, or someone you know, are interested in learning more about any of the positions below or our other amazing career opportunities, please check out our [Job Opportunities](#).

Positions	Job Posting Opened
Business Systems Analyst (Senior) – Health & Social Services	12/19/2024
Chief Deputy Behavioral Health	12/16/2024
Eligibility Benefits Specialist Supervisor	12/18/2024
Information Technology Analyst (Principal) (Software Engineer)	12/16/2024

NOTE: To be considered for the recruitment(s) listed above you must submit an application by the date indicated in the job announcement. The new eligible list(s) resulting from the above recruitment(s) may replace an existing eligible list; therefore, interested candidates are encouraged to apply for the current recruitment.

If you have any questions, please contact recruitment@solanocounty.com.

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

Solano County Public Defender Clean Slate Day 2025

**SOLANO COUNTY
PUBLIC DEFENDER**

**CLEAN
SLATE
DAY 2025**

WHEN
January 29, 2025
9am – 3pm

WHERE
County Events Center
601 Texas St, Fairfield, CA 94533

LIMITED SLOTS! REGISTER EARLY!

CLEAR YOUR CRIMINAL RECORD!



REQUIREMENTS:
Must not be in violation, on probation, parole, or mandatory supervision

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Clear your felony and misdemeanor convictions
- Clear your juvenile record
- Seal your arrest that did not result in a conviction

**SCAN WITH YOUR
PHONE TO REGISTER**



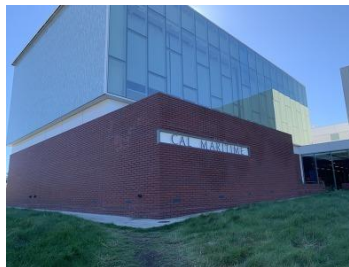
OR VISIT:
<https://forms.office.com/g/cr6lqnK17g>

For more info:
FreshStart@SolanoCounty.com
(707) 784-6700

To apply, click [here](#).

Help stock the Food Pantry at Cal Maritime

At Cal Maritime, the wellbeing of the cadets and students is central to the mission of the university. As a residential campus, all students are required to have a meal plan, yet many need to rely on the resources of the food pantry for various reasons.



The food pantry provides more than just food—it's a lifeline that ensures our students can thrive both academically and personally.

Here's how your support makes a difference:

- **Flexible Access to Meals:** With packed schedules, including classes, work, and athletic commitments, students can't always make it to scheduled mealtimes. The pantry offers items they can cook and eat when it's most convenient.
- **Support for Limited Cooking Options:** For those living on campus with minimal cooking facilities, we stock easy-to-prepare items suitable for microwaves or approved appliances.

- **Athlete Nutrition:** Many of our student-athletes need additional calories to support their training and recovery. The pantry provides supplemental meals to help meet their needs.
- **Personal Care Products:** Over the past two years, we've added personal care items such as razors, shaving cream, and hygiene products. This has been transformative, particularly for cadets facing unique grooming standards and limited off-campus access.
- **Off-Campus Support:** Even students living off-campus benefit from the pantry's expanded offerings, including fresh eggs, frozen chicken, and other essential items sourced from the Solano Food Bank.

In addition, the **Basic Needs Programs** extend beyond the pantry:

- **Greens on the Cove:** A weekly pop-up providing free fresh fruits and vegetables to 25-30 students. Demand is growing, and with more funding, we could offer this vital program twice a week.

From Monica: "Our students need help. Please write a check or buy supplies. Also, please drop off your items to 200 Maritime Academy Drive Vallejo, Ca 94590 at Mayo Hall from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Campus will be closed over the holidays from Dec. 23 to Jan. 2. Thank you all for supporting our students."

To donate, click [here](#).

Exclusively Black prenatal groups hosted by Solano HEALS

Solano HEALS Exclusively Black Virtual Prenatal Groups

Preparing for pregnancy and childbirth with a supportive community of Doulas.

Who should attend...

Pregnant Black women living in Solano County who are seeking a supportive environment to learn how to process their trauma and develop techniques to support their pregnancy journey.

What to expect...

- A supportive community of pregnant women with Doula led curriculum.
- Improved insight into your pregnancy journey and how to empower your birthing experience.

Groups are **free!**
Wednesdays - Feb 5th to Mar 26th
from 5-7 p.m.



Scan to fill out the interest form!

Free Giveaways!

Participants who complete program aspects will have the chance to receive giveaways!

- Pack N' Play Portable Playard
- New Parent Kit from First 5 Solano
- Handmade Blanket
- Produce from Park It Market

Attendance at a virtual preliminary information session is required before the group begins. Virtual session will be on Thursday, January 30th from 5-6 p.m.

www.solanoheals.com | solanoheals@gmail.com



Starting February 5, 2025, Solano HEALS is providing an 8-week session to pregnant Black women living in Solano County who are seeking a supportive environment to learn how to process their trauma and develop techniques to support their pregnancy journey.

Participants can expect doula led curriculum, improved insight into your pregnancy journey, and free giveaways. Interest form available [here](#).

Winged Migration Expo hosted by Vallejo Flood and Wastewater District



Join the Vallejo Flood and Wastewater District on February 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for their Winged Migration Expo and support the community through knowledge preservation of the Pacific Flyway in California and celebrate its birds within the natural world.

This free event will involve interactive kids' activities, speakers and experts, wing-themed art and vendors, and live or virtual tours of the island.

The location is building 34 on Nimitz Ave, Vallejo, CA 94592.
For more information, visit the website [here](#).

Vallejo continues accepting applications for boards, committees, and commissions

The city of Vallejo continues to accept applications for residents interested with serving on one of the numerous city's boards, commissions and committees. Vallejo residents who are interested in serving on an advisory body are invited to submit an application and supplemental questionnaire for consideration.



There are currently openings on the following boards, commissions, and committees:

(click links to access applications)

[Code Enforcement Appeals Board](#) (2) terms to expire 12/31/25

[Commission on Culture + Arts](#) (2) terms to expire 12/31/28

[Economic Development Commission](#) (1) term to expire 6/30/26

[Housing Authority Tenant Commissioners - Must be in the Housing Voucher Program and 1 of the tenant commissioners must be age 62 or older](#) (2) terms to expire 12/31/26

[Housing & Community Development Commission](#) – (2) 1 term to expire 6/30/27 and 1 to expire 6/30/28

[Marina Advisory Committee – \(2 berth seats\)](#) – 1 term to expire 6/30/26 and 1 term to expire 6/30/25

[Measure P Oversight Committee – District 6 Member Only](#) – (1) term to expire 10/10/26

[Participatory Budget Steering Committee](#) (1 member and 3 alternates) terms expire 6/30/25

[Surveillance Advisory Board – At-Large, District 1, 3 & 6 Members Only](#) – (4) terms to expire 1/2/29

For City Boards and Commissions, except for the Commission on Culture + Arts, Marina Advisory Committee, Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee, and the Surveillance Advisory Board, all appointed members must complete and file a Statement of Economic Interests, Form 700, within 30 days of appointment. **All City Board and Commission members** must

complete AB 1234 Ethics training and file a Certificate of Completion within 30 days of appointment.

In most instances, to be eligible for appointment, applicants must be residents of the City of Vallejo. Information regarding the duties of each board and commission and specific criteria for appointment may be found within each application. With some exceptions, appointments are typically for a term of 4 years.

The application period will remain open until a sufficient number have been received in the City Clerk's Office

Specific dates for applicant interviews with the City Council will be announced at a later date. Applicants must attend the interview to be considered for appointment on a board or commission.

Application forms and supplemental questionnaires are accessible in several ways:

The City's website, located on the [Boards and Commissions page](#)

At City Hall, Office of the City Clerk, 555 Santa Clara Street, 3rd Floor, Vallejo, CA

By Email at dawn.abrahamson@cityofvallejo.net, or by phone at (707) 648-4527

By Postal Mail: City of Vallejo, C/O City Clerk, PO Box 3068, Vallejo, CA 94590

JFK Library December Events Calendar

To view the JFK Library December Events Calendar, click [here](#).



Winter Shelter at BayNorth Church of Christ



BayNorth Church of Christ will be providing a winter shelter for city of Fairfield residents who are unhoused.

The winter shelter will operate each night **through March 31, 2025**. **The intake process will be from 6:30 to 8 pm and the shelter exit time will be 6 am each morning. Those needing shelter are allowed to line up starting at 6 pm.**

The winter shelter will be filled on a first come, first served basis each night with a limited capacity of ten. Individuals needing shelter must be able to independently manage activities of daily living and agree to comply with program guidelines. There will be limited space for personal belongings.

The winter shelter address is 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, and the phone number is (707) 260-9794.

FAST will provide free bus rides to the winter shelter on FAST route 3 from 6 to 7 pm Monday-Friday. Those who need a ride will need to board the bus at the Fairfield Transportation Center and let the driver know they are going to the winter shelter. Exit the bus at Solano Town Center, make a left on Pennsylvania Ave. and walk one block to Bay North Church of Christ.

Aquatics Complex Closure



The Allan Witt Aquatics Complex will be closed through January 4 for scheduled yearly maintenance. Please note monthly passes will not be prorated during this planned closure. The city of Fairfield officials suggest utilizing the 10-punch pass or drop-in daily rate as an option.

Vallejo pool



December calendar for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall



The December calendar of events for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall:

December 20: Tri Tip Dinner by Sons of The American Legion
signup sheet for this at bar

25 Merry Christmas Hanukkah Begins 25-Jan.2

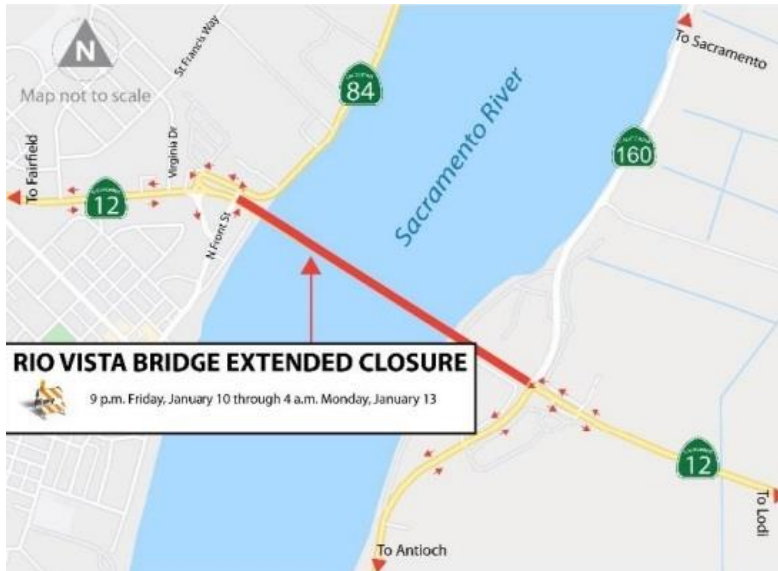
26 Hanukkah Begins 26-Jan. 1

27 Hamburgers by The American Legion

31 New Years Eve

The Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall is located at 1150 1st Street in downtown Benicia.

Rio Vista Bridge scheduled for third 55-hour closure



Caltrans is advising motorists of a scheduled closure of the Rio Vista Bridge (Helen Madere Memorial Bridge) on State Route 12 (SR-12) for ongoing repairs.

The weekend closure has been rescheduled to 9 p.m. Friday, January 10 through to 4 a.m. Monday, January 13.

This \$11.24 million project funded through the Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Program will require multiple 55-hour weekend closures for the work to be completed because of the limited width of the bridge to allow for heavy equipment access.

The project is making necessary mechanical repairs and rehabilitating the roadway surface by placing a polyester concrete overlay on the bridge deck. Work also includes replacing bridge rails, repaving bridge approach ramps, and constructing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ramps.

Delays for the arrival of bridge materials and a request from the city of Rio Vista has extended the original date.

For updates, click [here](#).

Upcoming events in Solano County

Vallejo Kids Book Fest



Holiday Festival
Sat. Dec. 21 Family Free Day
734 Marin St. Vallejo

10AM-11AM THE VALLEJO MUSEUM'S ANNUAL TEDDY BEAR TEA
11AM-12PM ANGELS WITH HEART STORYTIME & TOY GIVE AWAY
ALL DAY LONG- THE 5TH ANNUAL VALLEJO KIDS BOOK FEST W/ PERFORMANCES AND READERS TAKING STAGE AT 12:15

SPECIAL GUESTS: SANTA CLAUS & THE GRINCH


- I FREE BOOK PER PERSON
- LIVE PERFORMANCES
- STORYTELLERS
- CRAFTS & GAMES

THE SOLANO COUNTY LIBRARY WILL BE THERE TO MAKE LIBRARY CARDS ON SITE!

EVENT SPONSORS

ANOTHER CHAPTER
On the fringe Visual and Performing Arts
VM VALLEJO MUSEUM
Angels with Heart

December Cultural Celebrations Poetry Open Mic



Fairfield Poet Laureate
Suzanne Bruce is hosting

December Culture Celebrations
POETRY OPEN MIC

Introducing the next Fairfield Poet Laureate
Michael J. Wylly

Bring a poem you have written
or a favorite poet
or just come and listen.
All are welcome! Come meet Michael
his term will begin January 2025.

Saturday, December 21, 2024
1:00 – 3:00pm
Fairfield Cordelia Library
5050 Business Center Drive, Fairfield

Solano County LIBRARY



Kamikaze!



Embark with Dr. Rob Hoffman of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory on a historical journey spanning eight decades, from a pivotal amphibious operation in the 1940s to the high desert of Nevada during the peak of the Cold War era.

Prior to the Allied landings on the Philippines, the Japanese employed Kamikaze pilots in a devastating aerial campaign during a naval battle, which ultimately became the deadliest in naval history. You will not believe what Dr. Hoffman and his team found!

The discussion will take from 3 to 4 p.m., Sunday, January 5, inside St. Peter's Chapel, 1181 Walnut Avenue on Mare Island in the city of Vallejo.

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

Events I attended this week

Saturday, December 14, I attended the Wreaths Across America event held at the Mare Island Cemetery. It was a rainy and cold day, but many folks turned out for the event. Thank you, Steve and company, for all your effort. Take a walk this weekend and look at the wreaths decorating the tombstones. Take a minute out of this joyous time of year and remember our past.

I then rushed to the holiday parade in Benicia. Despite the rain, many folks came out to watch. It was fun seeing many friends. Then to thank my son who helped with the logistics, Pizza Pirate for lunch.

Tuesday night, December 17, I attended the Fairfield City Council meeting.

Thursday night, December 19, I attended the Benicia Unified School District Board meeting.

I want to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday season. It is ok to take a nap, or a walk, or read a book.

See you in 2025, Monica

Looking for a job? Consider these links

If you or someone you know is looking for a job, please consider a career with Solano County. Click [HERE](#) to access the website and follow on Facebook [@SolanoCountyJobs](#). Please also consider these other employment resources, including:

[STATE OF CALIFORNIA](#)

[CITY OF BENICIA](#)

[CITY OF FAIRFIELD](#)

[CITY OF VALLEJO](#)

[SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE](#)

[BENICIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)

[FAIRFIELD-SUISUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)

[VALLEJO SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)

[POST OFFICE](#)

[GREATER VALLEJO RECREATION DISTRICT](#)

[YOUTH JOBS CORPS](#)

[CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS](#)

[SOLANO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT](#)

[FAIRFIELD-SUISUN SEWER DISTRICT](#)

Newsletter photo

Christmas tree inside the Solano County Administrative Center.
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.