



SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER

January 31, 2025



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Important Numbers
Resources and Dates

District 2 Office

(707) 784-3031

Clerk of the Board & County Administrator's Office

(707) 784-6100

Veterans Services

(707) 784-6590

Health & Social Services

(707) 784-8400

Assessor/Recorder

(707) 784-6200

Resource Management

(707) 784-6765

Registrar of Voters

(707) 784-6675

Tax Collector/Treasurer/County Clerk

(707) 784-7485

Area Agency on Aging

(707) 784-8960

February is Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by Black people and a time to recognize their central role in history.



Learn about and honor Black History Month with books, movies, music, programs, and digital resources from the Solano County Library.

For a listing of featured events, click [here](#).

The San Francisco Chronicle also provided a listing of ten books to read during Black History Month. To view the list, click [here](#).

Flood watch issued for Bay Area as first storm in a month hits region

With inclement weather rolling in for the weekend, please note that we could get flooded. Please clean gutters, pick up leaves, drive carefully. - Monica

Rain from an [approaching storm pattern](#) that will have much of the Bay Area under a flood watch this weekend began to fall early Friday and is expected to pick up in intensity, according to the National Weather Service.

“Everything seems to be on track,” NWS meteorologist Joe Merchant said as areas of the North Bay were first to feel the rain. He added that for much of Friday and into Saturday, the region would see a “steady batch of rainfall.”

The heaviest precipitation on Friday is expected to hit areas of the North Bay in Sonoma and Napa counties, as the first wave of the system arrives. That storm is expected to have more of an influence in the northern part of the region and state, before a second round in the pattern rolls through closer to the central part of the region and state early early into next week.

“The second pattern is gonna be a classic atmospheric river-type storm,” Merchant said. “The moderate to heavy rainfall is going to shift south.”

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

Information this week

Solano County Sheriff's Office - Immigration Enforcement Questions



From the Solano County Sheriff's Office:

Dear Chair Mashburn and Supervisors,

The purpose of this notification is to provide information regarding questions that have arisen about immigration enforcement in our communities and the role of the Sheriff's Office in working with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

First and foremost, I want to emphasize that the Sheriff's Office has always enforced, and will continue to enforce, laws fairly and equally, regardless of immigration status. If a crime is committed, our community can expect the Sheriff's Office to provide the same level of service and resources, irrespective of immigration status.

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

Regarding immigration enforcement, the Sheriff's Office will continue to adhere to California Senate Bill 54 (2017), also known as the California Values Act. This law prohibits law enforcement from investigating, detaining, reporting, or arresting individuals solely for immigration enforcement purposes. However, we will continue to cooperate with all law enforcement agencies—local, state, and federal—on cases involving violent individuals, regardless of their immigration status. Our focus is not on immigration status; it is on public safety.

The Sheriff's Office remains committed to keeping our communities safe, and a resident's immigration status does not influence how we enforce laws or solve crimes. Our community can expect the same high standard of public safety we have always provided.

Respectfully,
Brad DeWall, Undersheriff

Presidential Executive Orders – How do they work?

Types of executive actions of the President:

- Orders
- Memorandums
- Proclamations



Executive Orders are directed toward and govern the actions of government officials and agencies. They have the force of law, only if it is founded on the authority of the president derived from the Constitution or statute and are required to be published in the Federal Register (the daily journal of the federal government) to notify the public. In addition, executive orders don't have to be approved and cannot simply be overturned by Congress, according to the American Bar Association (ABA). However, Congress and the courts can potentially block executive orders in other ways.

“Congress may pass legislation that might make it difficult, or even impossible, to carry out the order, such as removing funding. Only a sitting U.S. President may overturn an existing executive order by issuing another executive order to that effect.” (ABA's website)

Good examples: include Roosevelt's 1942 order authorizing the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, Truman's 1948 executive order desegregating the U.S. military and President Obama's 2012 order issuing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

Executive Memorandums are similar but differ in process: They are not required to cite the president's legal authority or be printed in the Federal Register, which makes them harder to track. They

are signed by the president and are used to manage administrative matters of the federal government.

Obama issued over 400 memorandums on topics such as gun control to immigration and overtime regulations, while Trump used them during his first term to take actions such as tightening asylum laws and imposing tariffs on China.

Presidential Proclamations, typically concern the activities of private individuals and do not usually have the force of law. They are typically used to provide information about holidays, commemorations and federal observances. A recent example is that Biden issued a proclamation announcing the death of former president, Jimmy Carter, in which he ordered flags to flown at half-staff for 30 days and designated a National Day of Mourning.

Sources:

npr.com

American Bar Association website

Transgender rights under new Presidential Administration

I received the following letter from a concerned member of the public. Let me be clear that my office will continue to work with all state and federal leaders to ensure that persons are protected under the law.

"My stress levels have gone way up from the high levels they normally are at. As such, I am writing to you in hope that you or your team can perhaps start providing some guidance for us in your newsletters.

Monica (I hope you're okay with me calling you Monica). I have no idea if you or your team are supportive of the Trans community or if you are one of the countless that would love it if we just disappeared, but I truly can't get any response from others. So, I am reaching out to you due to my concerns and fear.

I don't have any idea how much you know about Donald Trump's decisions he has implemented regarding Transgender people but from what we have read, it is looking like EVERY SINGLE Trans person is going to have to DeTransition in their paperwork, even if they have physically fully transitioned. We are trying to find out if this is the case.

Additionally, we are trying to figure out what laws are being broken on our part if we do not reverse our gender markers. Some of us having transitioned as far back as 60 years ago.

We are terrified about what an arrest will mean to many of us. From what Trump has provided as the expectations, if we are arrested, we will be put in the jail that matches our ORIGINAL GENDER. Many of us have gotten full surgical transitioning done. We no longer have a Penis but rather, we have a vagina. I don't know if you can envision what will happen when we are put into a male prison but so far, too many Transwomen have died from rape.

Now, many of us, people who have never been arrested in our lives. People who have spent the greater part of their lives JUST TRYING to live a peaceful and loving life could go to JAIL just for using the wrong Restroom.

Worse, we could easily be targeted by people and harassed and falsely arrested for actions that we did not do, only to be found innocent at a later time, during of which, we will have been in jail. There are many people who would gladly do such a horrific thing like this. Heck, I myself have had run-ins where people have literally tried to hit me with their car in a parking lot. They heard me on my phone, identified my voice as male, and all I was doing was walking towards the hospital from my car in the parking lot.

Please help us better understand what is happening so that we are not misreading into everything Donald Trump has provided. Please, many of us are terrified to leave our home even."

For more information about this situation overall, consider reading this article from the [ACLU](#).

Westbound I-80 Express Lane in Vacaville opening as temporary HOV lane ahead of formal launch in late 2025



The new westbound Interstate 80 (I-80) express lane between Vacaville and Fairfield will soon be open to California motorists as a temporary high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane.

If all goes according to plan, we expect to pull up the barriers and cones currently occupying the lane by **mid-February**. Here's what you need to know about temporary access:

- Caltrans has made substantial progress on the express lane project, but the tolling equipment won't be fully up and running until late 2025 at the earliest
- In the meantime, Caltrans will soon open the far-left lane on westbound I-80 between the I-505 interchange and Airbase Parkway to high-occupancy vehicles, better known as carpool vehicles, with two or more travelers during posted hours.
- Caltrans is currently in the final stages of installing HOV signage and striping the road. Once that is done, we will make a final announcement and open the temporary HOV lane.
- Once open, the lane will be available to vehicles with two or more people on board on weekdays from 5 to 10 a.m. and 3 to 7 p.m.
- Outside of those hours, the lane will be open to all
- Work to install tolling equipment will continue throughout this period, typically through overnight lane closures. As always, we ask motorists to please be mindful of their speed for the safety of our workers
- We expect to formally launch the completed express lane by late 2025. Until then, please enjoy the extra room on westbound Interstate 80 beginning in mid-February

To watch a short video about the project, click [here](#).

CHP Expands Support To Assist VPD In Addressing Reckless Driving & Sideshows



From the Vallejo Police Department:

The Vallejo Police Department (VPD) is proud to announce a collaboration with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to address the ongoing challenges of sideshows and reckless driving within the City of Vallejo. This surge, initiated under the authorization of Governor Gavin Newsom, aligns with recently enacted legislation designed to strengthen

enforcement and increase penalties for these dangerous activities.

Governor Newsom recently signed four key assembly bills (AB) into law, empowering law enforcement to take stronger action against illegal sideshows and street takeovers:

AB 1978: Grants law enforcement greater authority to impound vehicles involved in speed contests or exhibitions, regardless of whether the driver is arrested.

AB 2186: Closes existing loopholes by allowing the impoundment of vehicles used in speed exhibitions within off-street parking facilities.

AB 2807: Establishes standardized terminology for "sideshows" and "street takeovers" across California to streamline enforcement and prosecution efforts.

AB 3085: Authorizes law enforcement to obtain warrants for the seizure and impoundment of vehicles associated with sideshows, including those used to support or facilitate these events.

Beginning in the coming weeks, CHP will support VPD by conducting multiple operations per month during evening weekend hours. These operations will involve additional CHP officers supplementing VPD resources to enhance our ability to respond swiftly and effectively to sideshow activity. Together, the two agencies will enforce all California Vehicle Code (CVC) laws, aiming to deter and disrupt reckless driving while holding offenders accountable for jeopardizing public safety.

"These additional resources will allow us to expand our efforts using both traditional and non-traditional enforcement strategies," said Chief Ta. "We are also developing follow-up investigation techniques to address these incidents effectively and deter future occurrences."

The new legislation provides law enforcement agencies with essential tools to combat the growing threat of illegal street activities that endanger drivers, pedestrians, and neighborhoods.

The partnership between CHP and VPD underscores our shared commitment to public safety and our determination to combat reckless driving and sideshows. This increased collaboration will create a safer environment for Vallejo's residents, businesses, and stakeholders.

The Vallejo Police Department will continue to share updates on these operations and their positive impact on community safety.

Western Monarch Count Comes to Solano County

Every year, Western Monarch butterflies make their seasonal migration back to overwintering sites. This long migration happens during the fall into winter along the western coast of North America, and while most of these sites are further south, there are at least three in Solano County, two of which have been newly discovered.

The Xerces Society has a program called the Western Monarch Count (WMC) which occurs from late October through early January collecting data on the population status of Western Monarch butterflies, which counts the number of monarchs

clustering in trees and specifically where they are located. Solano County has a couple of overwintering sites which consist of clusters of large trees mainly redwood, eucalyptus, Monterey pine and cypress.

This year, Solano RCD took an active role in helping to coordinate the Western Monarch Counts at Chapel Park, along with scouting two new potential overwintering sites at Glen Cove Waterfront Park in Vallejo and Touro University on Mare Island. These will be added to the WMC map of overwintering sites, and we plan to lead official counts in the years to come!

Overall, counts have been lower than in previous years. Due to these low numbers, overall, a 95% decline since the 1980s with fewer than 2,000 being counted in 2020, the Fish and Wildlife service has proposed protection under the federal Endangered Species

Act. (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invertebrates/Monarch-Butterfly>)

If you would like to get involved in the overwintering counts next year or learn more about monarch butterfly overwintering, registration and information are at <https://westernmonarchcount.org/>

If you are interested in providing habitat for monarch butterflies around your home, please check out our monarch page <https://www.solanorcd.org/resources/pollinator-resources/monarch.html> and sign up for our newsletter.

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

To view the SR 37 Projects Visual Library, click [here](#). Below is a rendering of the proposed tolling Gantry East of the Tubbs Island Trailhead Road Intersection Looking East.

Public safety workshop



The Vallejo City Council is scheduled to hold a public safety workshop on **Tuesday, February 4, at 6:30 p.m. inside the Vallejo Room, located on the Lower Level of the John F. Kennedy Public Library, 505 Santa Clara**

Street in downtown Vallejo.

The Vallejo City Council will be asked to conduct a workshop on public safety, receive staff presentation and community input and provide direction on next steps.

To view the agenda, click [here](#).

Community Workshop - Pedestrian and Cyclist Experiences



Please join the city of Benicia's Community Development Department for an in-person and/or virtual workshop to share your pedestrian and cyclist experiences in the Eastern Gateway, surrounding the intersection of Military East and East Fifth Street.

The in-person workshop will be held on **Wednesday, February 5 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Benicia Community Center, 370 E L Street.**

The virtual workshop will be held on Wednesday, February 12 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. by [Zoom](#).

Visit the project website for more information about the project and workshop:

<https://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/easterngateway>

Solano County General Plan community forum



Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025
5-7 pm
County Events Center (Room A)
601 Texas St., Fairfield, CA

Solano County's General Plan will be updated in 2028. There is interest in incorporating a 'Healthy Communities' chapter this time around, which would benefit from a strong local food system, access to healthy food, successful local farmers and more. This Healthy Communities chapter would also hold the county's Climate Action Plan. But how do all these elements come together to support the plan? And how can the public participate in this process? Get answers to these questions and more at this public educational forum with local experts in planning, zoning, food systems and food access.



FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
Scan for registration and updates.



SustainableSolano.org/events

THIS PUBLIC EVENT IS HOSTED BY THE
SOLANO LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM ALLIANCE

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

VCUSD Board of Education narrows down school closure and consolidation options for Feb. 19 vote



On Wednesday, Jan. 22, the Vallejo City Unified School District (VCUSD) held a Governing Board Study Session to address the critical issue of school closures and consolidations. After further evaluation, the board identified three amenable options to move forward with and instructed staff to draft resolutions for a vote at the Feb. 19 regular board meeting.

The proposed options, set to take effect at the start of the 2025-26 school year, include the following:

1. **Mare Island Health and Fitness Academy Closure and Relocation of Vallejo Charter School:** Mare Island Health and Fitness Academy will close. Vallejo Charter School will move to the Mare Island campus for the 2025-26 school year. The district would repurpose the Vallejo Charter School property.
2. **Reconfiguration of Loma Vista Environmental Science Academy:** Grades 6-8 would move to Solano Widenmann Leadership Academy, converting Loma Vista into a TK-5 school. The district will convert the middle school's current space for expanded learning programs or other needs, such as professional development.
3. **Closure of Loma Vista Environmental Science Academy:** The district will close the entire school and allocate the space for district use, excluding the farm.

Additionally, discussions touched on the potential future consolidation of Pennycook Elementary and Steffan Manor Elementary into a single school and the closure and/or consolidation of Federal Terrace Elementary and Lincoln Elementary. However, these actions would not occur in this initial phase of cuts but are being considered for the 2026-27 school year and beyond.

“We understand that these decisions significantly affect families, and we remain committed to prioritizing student success and equity throughout this process,” said VCUSD Superintendent Rubén Aurelio. “Our goal is to maintain fiscal responsibility while providing high-quality educational opportunities.”

Discussions about school closures and consolidations stem from a steady decline in enrollment, ongoing deficit spending, and the

district's commitment to improving academic outcomes for all students.

To accommodate a larger audience, the Board of Education will hold its Feb. 19 meeting at Mare Island Health and Fitness Academy, located at 400 Rickover St, Vallejo, CA 94592.

The public portion of the meeting will begin at 6 p.m. and will be live streamed on the district's [YouTube page](#) for those unable to attend in person. Spanish translation services will be provided. For accommodations, please contact the superintendent's office at 707-556-8921 x50002.

VCUSD encourages all community members to stay informed and participate in upcoming discussions. For more information, to view the recording of the study session, or to provide feedback, visit the [district's closure and consolidation website](#).

Solano County Caregiver Forum



SOLANO COUNTY CAREGIVER FORUM

PRESENTED BY THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Wednesday, March 26, 2025
9 a.m. to Noon
Solano County Events Center,
Conference Room A, 601 Texas St.
Fairfield, CA 94533

Register at
tinyurl.com/SCCGForum25
or call 800.272.3900.

Registration is required.



Presentations will include information on Alzheimer's disease and other dementia, research advancements, caregiving strategies, caregiver self-care, recent legislative policy successes, and local community resources. Light refreshments will be served.

Please feel free to reach out to Stefanie Bonigut, sbonigut@alz.org or 925.290.7911 if you have any questions.

FEATURED PRESENTATIONS



ADVANCING THE SCIENCE: THE LATEST IN ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA RESEARCH

CLAIRE DAY - Chief Mission and Program Strategy Officer, Alzheimer's Association, Northern California & Northern Nevada

Claire Day has been on the staff of the Alzheimer's Association since 2001. She oversees all care and support, DEL operations, and research initiatives for Northern California & Northern Nevada. Ms. Day is a clinical social worker and received her degree from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. She has more than twenty-five years of experience as a family and professional educator in dementia care.



2024 CALIFORNIA STATE POLICY SUCCESSES

JESSICA ROTHHAAR - Senior Public Policy Manager, Alzheimer's Association, Northern California & Northern Nevada

Jessica Rothhaar helps people who have been personally impacted by Alzheimer's and other dementia share their stories with elected officials to advance Alzheimer's research, care and support. She has over 20 years of experience in public policy advocacy, and is deeply committed to giving a voice to people living with Alzheimer's and their loved ones to drive policy change.



BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN THE PERSON LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

DAVID TROXEL, MPH - Writer and Consultant; Co-author, *The Best Friends Approach to Dementia Care*

David Troxel is an internationally known expert in Alzheimer's disease and memory care. An informative and engaging speaker, David holds a Masters Degree in Public Health from Rutgers Medical School (now UMDNJ/Robert Wood Johnson Medical School). During his 25 years in the field, he has also served as an Executive Board member of the American Public Health Association and a member of the Ethics Advisory Panel for the Alzheimer's Association. David has co-authored six influential books (most notably, *The Best Friends™ Approach to Dementia Care*) relating to dementia care as well as staff development and training.



CHARGING YOUR BATTERY - CAREGIVER SELF-CARE STRATEGIES

RAENIKA BUTLER - Senior Manager of Community Engagement, Alzheimer's Association, Northern California & Northern Nevada

Raenika Butler provides support and education to caregivers and individuals affected by Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia. She has a Master of Arts in Gerontology and over 12 years of experience in the field of aging with a previous background in adult day health care and geriatric care management. Raenika is deeply dedicated to helping improve the lives of older adults and their communities of support, and she continues to make a significant impact in the community.

To register, click [here](#).

Updates from around Solano County

Vallejo accepting applications for 2025 Citizens Academy

The city of Vallejo is pleased to announce the 2025 Citizens Academy, aimed at empowering residents with valuable insights into city government and its operations.



The Vallejo Citizens Academy, an 11-week interactive educational course, is designed to foster civic engagement, enabling participants to make a meaningful impact on our community. This will be the second year of the program, after a successful first year.

"I'd like to encourage our residents to participate in the Citizens Academy and help improve Vallejo through knowledge of City services and sharing this knowledge with the Community," said City Manager Andrew Murray. "After learning about our departments and meeting with Directors, we also hope to attract more skilled and talented Vallejoans to join our Staff in making a difference."

What is The Vallejo Citizens Academy?

The Vallejo Citizens Academy is a comprehensive program set to span 11 weeks*, providing Vallejo residents with an in-depth understanding of City government and, more specifically, how the City of Vallejo operates. By offering this knowledge, the Academy aims to empower individuals to actively participate in the daily life of Vallejo, engage in the political landscape, and share vital information with their neighbors. Participants will gain a deeper insight into all City Departments, discovering aspects of the City's operations they may not have been aware of before.

The Vallejo Citizens Academy is set to begin on March 5. Classes will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. 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 snacks provided throughout the duration of the program.

For more information and to submit your application, visit www.myvallejo.com/CitizensAcademy.

The class meets twice a month from March - July (plus graduation in July) 2025

Solano Child Care Planning Council Forum



From the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE):

Solano County Office of Education, in collaboration with the Solano Child Care Planning Council and other community partners, is hosting its annual Child Care Planning Council Community Forum.

This forum will provide valuable information on childcare options available throughout Solano County, including care for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children. Families will learn how to access child care and related resources in the county. Parents, educators, childcare providers, and anyone interested in childcare is invited to attend.

Research shows that children's experiences during their first five years directly impact their brain development, influencing their health and ability to learn and succeed in school and life. Many of these early experiences take place in childcare settings, underscoring the importance of quality care for our youngest learners.

The Solano County Child Care Planning Council Community Forum will be held on Saturday, February 1 at the Mary Bird Early Childhood Education Center, located at 420 E. Tabor Ave, Fairfield, CA, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Refreshments and childcare will be provided. [Please register in advance](#). For questions, contact the Solano County Office of Education at (707) 399-4400.

The Propulsion Lab w/ California State University Maritime



This program offers a unique opportunity to explore the emerging field of bioeconomy, where natural resources and innovative technologies come together to create sustainable

solutions for the future. Whether you're new to the field or have a growing interest, we're excited to learn more about you.

Please complete the form below, including a brief survey to help us understand your knowledge and interest in bioeconomy.

The form can be found by clicking [here](#).

Exclusively Black prenatal groups hosted by Solano HEALs



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, 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](#).

Effective Black Parenting classes

The Solano County Office of Education is proud to offer the Effective Black Parenting Training Classes, specifically designed for parents of color.

This 8-week course is aimed at promoting family pride and cohesion, helping families set meaningful goals for their children, and identifying the necessary steps to achieve those goals. Through this interactive training, parents will gain valuable tools to

strengthen their role in their children's lives and ensure their success.

The course time will be 5 to 6 p.m. central standard time (CST) and will be conducted primarily online, with in-person meetings every other Thursday.

Participants will also have the opportunity to celebrate their achievements at a closing graduation ceremony on February 28th, 2025.

To register, click [here](#).

February events hosted by Fairfield PAL Teen Center



Fairfield PAL is getting ready for a February packed with fun, food, and unforgettable moments at the Fairfield PAL Teen Center! This month, there will be fun with programs, amazing partnerships, and exciting new activities for teens aged 13–18 from Fairfield, Suisun, and Travis. Check out the calendar full of events such as Cookies & Canvas, Boxing & Kajukenbo, Girls Circle, TikTok Taste Cooking, Squid Games-Inspired Competition,

games galore and so much more.

To view the calendar, click [here](#).

Success with Diabetes Program hosted by Touro University



Touro University California Diabetes Services will provide the success with diabetes program.

A free in-person 6-week program to help you learn how to live a healthier life with diabetes. **Sessions are offered in English at The Joseph Nelson Community Center located at 611 Village Dr., Suisun City, CA 94585 every Wednesday starting March 5 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Sessions are offered in Spanish at Family Health Services located at 1119 E Monte Vista Ave., Vacaville, CA 95688 every Wednesday starting February 26 at 4 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register for both languages.

Newly appointed Fairfield Poet Laureate Michael Wyly sworn in



From the city of Fairfield:

City Clerk Karen Rees administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Fairfield Poet Laureate Michael Wyly during the Fairfield City Council meeting on January 21. He will serve a two-year term. Former Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce's term came to an end in December, and she passed her pen to Solano College English Professor, Michael Wyly. He was chosen as the next Fairfield Poet Laureate by the City Council.

During her tenure as Poet Laureate, Bruce shared her poetry at several city council meetings and public events. She also organized several events to encourage aspiring poets, with a focus on youth poets. These events included Hike & Write's, open mic's, readings, and an ongoing column in the Daily Republic. Her service has been inspirational, and she leaves large shoes for Wyly to fill.

Wyly is eager to take on the challenge and continue Bruce's legacy of community engagement through poetry. He will share an original poem for Black History Month at the February 4, 2025, City Council meeting.

For more information about the current Poet Laureate and events, visit www.fairfield.ca.gov/poet.

Photo credit: City of Fairfield.

Speaker Series: Cryptology

Author Ralph Simpson will discuss over 2000 years of cipher evolution, starting with Julius Caesar and continuing to today with modern public key cryptography.



Throughout human history, militaries of the world have succeeded or failed based on the security of their communications. Mr. Simpson will join the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation to explain the role of cryptology in that history, what it is, and how it has impacted the world.

This is your chance to not only learn about this fascinating subject, but you will also have the opportunity to see and touch a captured German Enigma Machine from World War II.

See the promotional video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WON01MNNnB4>

The event will be held on Sunday, March 2, at 3 p.m., inside St. Peter's Chapel, 1181 Walnut Avenue on Mare Island in the city of Vallejo.

Tickets can be purchased by clicking [here](#).

Speaker Series: All Things Organ



Join the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation in "All Things Organ" and surround yourselves in the resonant and inspiring sounds of the beautiful St. Peter's Chapel Pipe Organ, the fourth pipe organ installed in

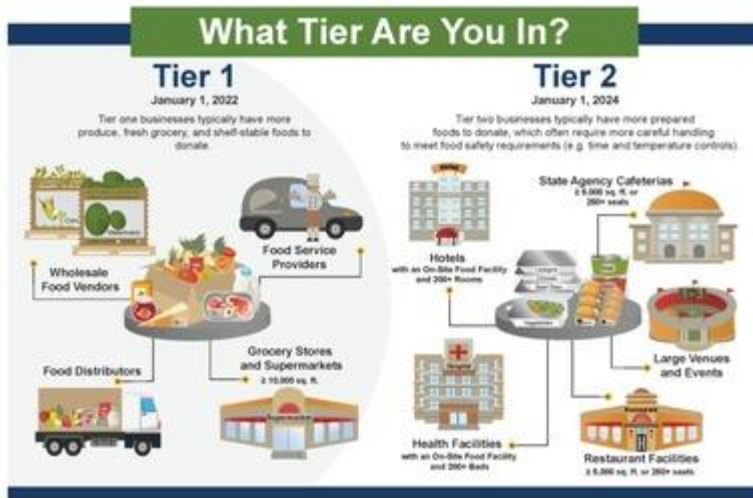
1966. The chapel organ is carefully and expertly maintained by the internationally famous Schoenstein & Co. (Est. 1877), organ builders, of Benicia.

Presenters include the world-renowned Jack Bethards, Chairman and Tonal Advisor for Schoenstein & Co., and Bret Barner, a skilled chapel organist, who frequently showcases his expertise and artistry through organ performances during special chapel events. This event will bring together the rich history of the Chapel organ accompanied by musical demonstrations that showcase its sublime sound. The occasion will highlight the organ's evolution over time, from its inception to its present-day operation, and feature performances that exhibit its remarkable tonal capabilities. By combining historical context with live music, the event promises to be a unique and enriching experience, allowing attendees to appreciate the Chapel organ's beauty and significance.

The event will take place on Sunday, April 13, from 4 to 5 p.m., at St. Peter's Chapel, 1181 Walnut Avenue on Mare Island in the city of Vallejo.

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

City of Fairfield Launches Edible Food Recovery Program



Starting in early February, the city of Fairfield Public Works Department will launch the Edible Food Recovery (EFR) Program in partnership with Solano County.

This program is a key element of Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383), which mandates certain businesses to donate edible food to food recovery organizations, such as a food bank, rather than throwing it away. The EFR Program aims to help alleviate food insecurity and redistribute this recovered food to help feed people in need.

In December 2024, the City of Fairfield and Solano County entered into an agreement for the County to administer the EFR program on the City's behalf. County Environmental Health staff will conduct site visits and work with businesses to ensure food donations are safely donated and adequately documented.

Businesses required to participate are categorized as either Tier 1 or Tier 2 generators, and City staff will assist the County with outreach and food recovery efforts for these businesses. The City and County have also been in contact with the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and plan to work collaboratively to strengthen and grow existing food recovery networks.

For more information about the EFR program visit:

www.fairfield.ca.gov/sb1383

Solano County Water Agency accepting entries for Water Awareness Video Contest



15TH ANNUAL SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY
WATER AWARENESS VIDEO CONTEST

THIS YEAR'S THEME:
**The Water Cycle:
Why we need to
Think Outside the Sink**

Create a one-minute public service announcement video explaining how we can all work together to conserve water on a broad scale.

We encourage students to think about ALL the different ways people, industries, and institutions use water.

FOR 6TH - 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

CASH PRIZES AWARDED FOR OVERALL WINNERS & SPONSORING TEACHERS

LEARN MORE 

OR VISIT WWW.SCWA2.COM

Submissions open January 6, 2025 Contest deadline March 18, 2025



The Solano County Water Agency is now accepting entries from Solano County students in grades 6 through 12 and their sponsoring teachers for the Water Agency's 15th annual video contest. Winning entries will receive up to \$1,500.

This year's theme is The Water Cycle: Why We Need to Think Outside the Sink. The contest is challenging students to explore the need for Solano County residents to think globally and act locally in order to conserve water.

Students should create a one-minute public service announcement video explaining how we can all work together to conserve water on a broad scale. In their PSAs, we encourage students to think about all the different ways people, industries, and institutions use water,

and to offer creative conservation steps for individuals and our society at-large to take.

This year, the Solano County Water Agency will award prizes of \$1,500 to the first-place video, \$1,000 to the second-place video, and \$500 to the third-place video. Additionally, the winning entry from each school with ten or more submissions will be awarded a \$100 gift card. The three teachers who generate the most student participation in the contest will each win a \$200 gift card.

Entries will be judged by a panel of water efficiency experts and community leaders for content, accuracy, and response to the assigned theme; entertainment value and originality; videography, style and organization; and audio/sound quality.

Complete information about the 2025 video contest, water conservation information, samples of past winning videos, and the 2025 entry packet is available by clicking [here](#).

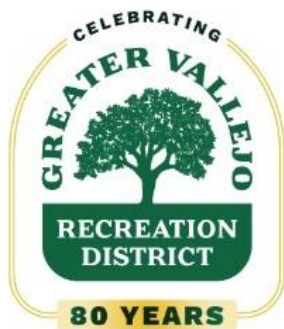
Entries can be submitted through e-mail to Education@solanorcd.org, via Google Drive using the form found on the contest website, or on a USB flash drive via US mail or delivered in person to the Solano Resource Conservation District office in Dixon.

Release forms and entry forms must accompany video submissions in order for them to be considered.

All entries and paperwork must be received by Tuesday, March 18, at 5 p.m.

Contact Shea Kinser at Solano Resource Conservation District at shea.kinser@solanorcd.org with questions or for more information.

GVRD receives Transparency Certificate



From a GVRD press release:

The Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance.

“This award is a testament to Greater Vallejo Recreation District’s commitment to open government,” said, Gabriel Lanusse, General Manager. “Our staff is to be commended for their contributions that empower the public with information and facilitate engagement and oversight.” To receive the award Greater Vallejo Recreation District

demonstrated the completion of essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner.

SDLF is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California's special districts through certification, accreditation, and other recognition programs.

Special districts are independent public agencies that deliver core local services to communities, such as Utility, wastewater treatment, fire protection, parks and recreation, healthcare, sanitation, mosquito abatement, ports, libraries, public cemeteries and more. Districts are established by voters and their funding is approved by voters to meet specific needs through focused service. They can be specially molded to serve large regions or small neighborhoods depending on the need.

For further information on this press release contact the General Manager, Gabriel Lanusse at (707) 980-9694 or glanusse@gvrd.org.

Free COVID tests at the Benicia Library

Free COVID antigen tests are available at the Benicia Public Library for anyone who needs them. Each package contains two tests.



Limit two packages (4 tests) per person per visit while supplies last.

These tests have been provided by the California Department of Public Health.

The library is located 150 E L Street.

Red Top Road update

PG&E recently removed overhead powerlines and poles and de-energized the meter pedestal. Contractor Mountain Cascade removed the main breaker cabinet and foundation, and the last median island streetlight was installed. These activities allow for developer Seeno to now finish grading the remaining lots, place the sound wall, install landscaping, and complete the sidewalk.

For more information, visit www.fairfield.ca.gov/redtop

2025 Teen Photo Contest



Eligibility: Any teen age 12-18 in Solano County

Contest Period: Submit entries February 3- March 10 by 9 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

Prizes:

- 10 winning photos (1 from each photo category) will be displayed in our library branches. Category winners may request to keep the print of their winning photo from the library branch of their choice.

How to Enter:

- **Email:** Send your photos to teentechsolano@gmail.com. Include your Name, City, photo Category, and Title of Photo (optional).
- **Instagram:** Use [#sclphotocontest2025](https://www.instagram.com/sclphotocontest2025). Include your Name, City, Photo Category, and Title of Photo (optional). Important: Make sure your privacy settings allow the Instagram account 'Solanolibrary' to see your submissions.

Contest Rules: You may submit one entry per category. Solano Library staff or its guest judges shall choose the winners from all entrants who have submitted an entry during the submission period. Winners shall be selected based upon which submissions are the most original, artistic and/or funny expression of the theme and category. The decision of the library is final. Prize winners will be notified by email or Instagram on or before March 29. Entrants will only be eligible to win one category each year.

Photo Categories

Architecture
Album Covers
Animals
Food/Drinks
Library (pictures of the inside/outside of your favorite library)
Nature
People & Portraits
Special Effects
Sports
Travel/ Landscapes

Library Use of Entries: By entering your work, you acknowledge that Solano Library shall have the right to use, modify, reproduce, publish, display, distribute, or make derivative works of Entry Materials for promotional or any other purposes.

Original Work: You hereby warrant and represent that (a) you own all rights to all Entry Materials submitted by you; and (b) all such

Entry Materials are original works of authorship on your part and have not been copied, in whole or in part, from any other work and do not violate, misappropriate or infringe any copyright, trademark or other proprietary right of any other person or entity. You hereby verify that you will provide full written permission of any recognizable person, and their guardian if they are a minor, who are depicted in your Entry Materials.

Molly Cares Calling Program



Thanks to support from the Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging, the Molly Cares friendly calling program expanded to Solano County in June 2024.

This no-cost program pairs local seniors with volunteer callers for weekly check-in calls, offering companionship and identifying those in need of vital resources.

Through partnerships with local organizations, they help connect seniors to essential services, including food, housing, and mental health support.

For more information, visit the [website](#) or call (707) 224-8971.

Solano County jobs

Positions	Job Posting Opened
Administrative Assistant to Executive / Senior Management (Administrative Secretary)	01/31/2025
Juvenile Correction Counselor (Senior) <i>Current Solano County Probation employees are invited to apply for this promotional opportunity</i>	01/28/2025

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](#).

City of Fairfield's Parks and Recreation Department hiring



We're Hiring!

Join the Parks & Recreation Team and #DeliverAwesome to our community!

Recreation Specialists Preschool Instructors
Facility Attendants Activity Specialists
Swim Instructors Lifeguards
and MORE!

Please Note: Positions are part-time, year-round, non-benefited, and limited to working no more than 1,000 hours in a fiscal year (July 1-June 30). Candidates must be available to work a varied schedule to meet program needs, including weekdays, weekends, and holidays as needed.

Apply Today at www.fairfield.ca.gov/jobs

PARKS & RECREATION
fairfield
CALIFORNIA

To apply, and/or for more information, click [here](#).

Dover Park playground area closed in February for repairs



**DOVER PARK PLAYGROUND
AREAS WILL BE CLOSED**
FEBRUARY 10TH - FEBRUARY 17TH

Sorry We're
CLOSED

FAIRFIELD

For more information, contact Gary Sponslor (707) 428-7416.

Arts Benicia

Arts Benicia invites the community to two new exhibitions, **Forma Natura: Nature as Source; and In Remembrance: Lowell Dalton, Fine Artist and Craftsman**. These exhibitions will open on **Saturday, January 25, an Opening Reception, from 4 to 6 p.m.**



Forma Natura: Nature as Source, juried by Alicia Escott, features artists' representations of the natural world. In the upstairs showcase gallery, there will be drawings, watercolors and paintings of Lowell Dalton, a longtime friend of Arts Benicia, curated by his wife Carol Dalton.

If you haven't signed up yet, there is still time to register for the upcoming program, **Art Talks and Timely Conversations Series: Estate Planning for Artists: Ensuring Your Legacy, to be held on February 8, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Commanding Officer's Quarters, 1 Commandants Lane.**

Speakers include Julia Schwartz, Sushanna Stern, Keley R. Peterson with moderator Ricci Victorio. To register for this program, which is free to Arts Benicia Members. To register or buy tickets use this link: <https://artsbenicia.org/art-talks-and-timely-conversations-estate-legacy-planning/>

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 p.m. Visitors are invited to walk throughout the historic mansion built in 1860, an important and interesting part of Benicia'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 the Arts Benicia website. For full listings, visit <https://artsbenicia.org/adult-classes>.

Interested in sponsoring a program with Arts Benicia? The support of local businesses and donors is essential to the quality and reach of the programs. With your sponsorship support, Arts Benicia can continue to offer an engaging, diverse array of programs at low or no cost to the community.

To find out more about sponsoring an Arts Benicia exhibition or program, please get in touch by emailing info@artsbenicia.org or visiting <https://artsbenicia.org/sponsorship/>

Inquiries? Email info@artsbenicia.org or visit <http://artsbenicia.org>

Ekphrastic - Fairfield

*Suzanne Bruce, Fairfield Poet Laureate Emerita
and the Fairfield-Suisun City Visual Arts Association
invite you to write a poem to an art piece*

Exhibit: Show Me Your Color



Spotlight Artist: Dennis Ariza

Exhibit dates: January 8 through February 23, 2025
Solano Town Center Gallery:
1350 Travis Blvd #D-8 (inside the Town Center Mall)

Art Reception and Poetry Reading:

Saturday, January 18, 2025

Art Reception- 3:00-6:00pm

Poetry Reading- 5:00-6:00pm

Art can be seen at the Gallery
Wednesday through Sunday 11:00am – 6:00pm (recommended)


Or online, beginning January 7th:
www.fvaa-arts.org click on Gallery

Please send your poem, **42 lines or less**
to Suzanne: fairfieldpoetlaureate.emerita@gmail.com
by Thursday, January 16th- 5:00pm

Send preferably in a word doc. No picture of art necessary
Do put the name of the art and artist's name with your poem


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

American Legion National Commander Dinner



National Commander's Dinner
hosted by
American Legion Post 165

549 Merchant Street
Vacaville, CA 95688




National Commander
James A. LaCoursiere Jr.
Loyalty, Unity & Valor

Monday, February 3, 2025
No-Host Cocktails 5PM * Dinner/Program 6PM

MENU
Choice of:
1) Marinated chicken breast in a lemon Bolognese sauce (or)
2) Marinated flank steak in a chimichurri sauce
With scalloped potatoes, broccoli Normandy
Spring salad with walnuts & feta cheese
Rolls with butter & dessert

Donation of \$30 per ticket

Legion Venmo QR Code:


PayPal:
<https://www.paypal.me/ALPost165>

Or Mail a check to:
American Legion Post
P.O. Box 3043
Vacaville, CA 95696-3043

For questions, contact: vacavillelegionpost165@gmail.com

James A. LaCoursiere Jr. was elected National Commander of The American Legion on Aug. 29, 2024, in New Orleans, during the 105th National Convention.

An Air Force veteran, LaCoursiere has been a longtime field representative for the American Legion Department of Connecticut's Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, which financially assists veterans and their families in need.

LaCoursiere has held many leadership positions at The American Legion post, department (state) and national levels. He is a member of American Legion Post 91 in Moosup, Conn. He has also served as a national vice commander, Connecticut state commander, and chairman of the national Legislative Commission.

LaCoursiere is married to his wife, Lisa, and has two children (Patrick and Meghan), and three stepchildren (Jason, Kaylene and the late Johnathan).

Born to a military family in Honolulu, Hawaii, LaCoursiere attended Montville High School where he played junior varsity football, varsity football and varsity track.

As national commander, LaCoursiere is strongly committed to raising awareness for The American Legion's Be the One mission to prevent veteran suicide.

February calendar for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall

The February calendar of events for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall:



February 2: Groundhog Day

3 Four Chaplains Day

4 USO birthday

5 VFW AND Aux meeting is 1900 hours; Judy's Hot dogs; Crab feed meeting

7 VFW Hamburgers

9 Superbowl party, we open at noon, game time after 1500; National Salute to Veteran Patients week of 9 to 15

11 Boys Under the Hood meeting, Hot dogs

12 AMERICAN LEGION / AUX meet at 1900 hours, Judy's Hot dogs

14 VFW Auxiliary Hamburgers; Valentine's Day

17 President's Day

18 House commission meeting 1830 hrs.

19 SONS AMERICAN LEGION meet at 1900 hours; Judy's Hot dogs; birthday of the United States Coast Guard Reserve

21 American Legion Hamburgers 28 Sons of The American Legion Hamburgers; Ramadan, from Feb. 28 to Mar. 29

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

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.

Upcoming events in Solano County

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](#).


Teen Writing Contest poetry reading



Solano County LIBRARY
Web: solanolibrary.com
Phone: 1-866-572-7587
Facebook, Instagram, Twitter icons, solanolibrary.com

TEEN WRITING CONTEST POETRY READING

Join Fairfield Civic Center Library and Suzanne Bruce, Fairfield Poet Laureate Emerita for a chance to hear teens read their poems that were entered into the 2024 Teen Writing Contest.



FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY | **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1**
1:00 - 2:30 PM

For more information visit solanolibrary.com/events

The Fairfield Civic Center Library is located at 1150 Kentucky Street.

Benicia Wine & Chocolate Walk 2025



STROLL FIRST STREET
With Your Sweetheart

Wine & Chocolate WALK

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1
1-5PM

Enjoy fine wine and chocolate tastings at participating downtown shops, galleries and more.

Complimentary Wine Glass

\$35 each or two for \$65 until January 25
\$40 each from January 26 - 31
Day-of tickets available while supplies last

Ages 21 and over

Tickets available at Benicia Main Street, 90 First Street or by phone at 707-745-9791 or at beniciamainstreet.org (online ticketing fees apply)

The popular wine and chocolate walk returns!

Thirty (30) Downtown Benicia businesses will open their doors to sample wine and tasty bites. Grab your sweetheart or make it a galentines day as you sip, stroll and explore the unique boutiques and galleries on First Street.

Enjoy up to 15 tastes and souvenir glass with over 30 downtown locations (and wines) to choose from. Lite bites are served at select locations.

TICKET PRICES:

Starting January 26, all tickets are \$40 each.

Online tickets sales end January 31 at midnight.

Day of tickets are sold in-person at 90 First Street while supplies last.

Ticketholders must be age 21 and over.

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

- Check-in starts at 12:30pm at Benicia Main Street, 90 First Street.
- Tasting begins at 1PM.
- A map of tasting locations, wristband and souvenir glass will be provided at check-in.
- Each ticket holder **MUST** be present and must show ID at check-in.
- This is a rain or shine event.

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

Black History Month Documentary

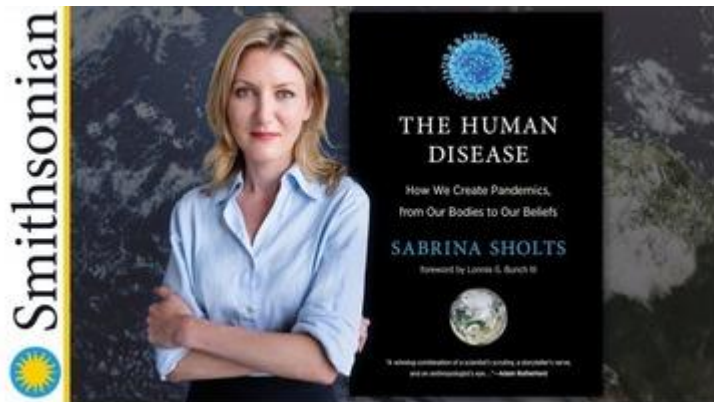


Join the Solano County Library for a screening of the documentary "100 Years from Mississippi".

This film is (1hr) and rated NR. Open to all ages, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Popcorn and water will be provided.

The showing will take place from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m., Saturday, February 1 at the Suisun City Library, 601 Pintail Drive.

How We Create Pandemics, From Our Bodies to Our Beliefs with Smithsonian Curator Sabrina Sholts



Join in for this enlightening presentation with Smithsonian curator Sabrina Sholts as she talks about how the very fact of being human increases our pandemic risks—and gives us the power to save ourselves.

The COVID-19 pandemic won't be our last—because what makes us vulnerable to pandemics also makes us human. That is the uncomfortable but all-too-timely message of *The Human Disease: How We Create Pandemics, From Our Bodies to Our Beliefs*, which

travels through history and around the globe to examine how and why pandemics are an inescapable threat of our own making. Drawing on dozens of disciplines—from medicine, epidemiology, and microbiology to anthropology, sociology, ecology, and neuroscience—as well as a unique expertise in public education about emerging infectious diseases, biological anthropologist Sabrina Sholts identifies the human traits and tendencies that double as pandemic liabilities, from the anatomy that defines us to the misperceptions that divide us.

Weaving together a wealth of personal experiences, scientific findings, and historical stories, Sholts brings dramatic and much-needed clarity to one of the most profound challenges we face as a species. Though the COVID-19 pandemic looms large in Sholts's account, it is, in fact, just one of the many infectious disease events explored in *The Human Disease*. With its expansive, evolutionary perspective, the book explains how humanity will continue to face new pandemics because *humans cause them*, by the ways that we are and the things that we do. By recognizing our risks, Sholts suggests, we can take actions to reduce them. When the next pandemic happens, and how bad it becomes, are largely within our highly capable human hands—and will be determined by what we do with our extraordinary human brains.

The presentation will take place on Tuesday, February 4 at 11 a.m. To register, click [here](#).

Poetry Out Loud



2025 Solano County YOUTH POETS Competition

Witness the Power of Young Voices
At this exciting showcase of emerging literary talent!

Young Poets from across Solano County will compete for coveted spots at the California State Finals in Sacramento.

Come support our local youth as they share poetry and demonstrate their creative mastery of language and performance.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

1:00 - 3:00 pm

**VALLEJO NAVAL & HISTORICAL MUSEUM
734 MARIN ST, VALLEJO**

FREE to ATTEND

Jacalyn Eyvonne, Vallejo Poet Laureate
author.jacalyneyvonne@gmail.com

Carmen Stack, Ex. Dir. Solano County Arts Council
707-712-3321, info@solanocountyartsCouncil.com

www.PoetryOutLoud.org

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT OF THE
ARTS



POETRY
OUT LOUD



Trash Mob



The city of Fairfield, in partnership with Sullivan Language Immersion Academy's Parent Teacher Organization are seeking volunteers to help with a Trash Mob on **Saturday, February 8 from 9 to 11 a.m., along the Linear Trail next to the school.**

Volunteers can park in the school parking lot at 2195 Union Avenue.

Snacks, water, and all supplies will be provided. Wear comfortable shoes (NO CROCS) and long pants. Public Works will be onsite 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.

Benicia's Third Annual State of the City

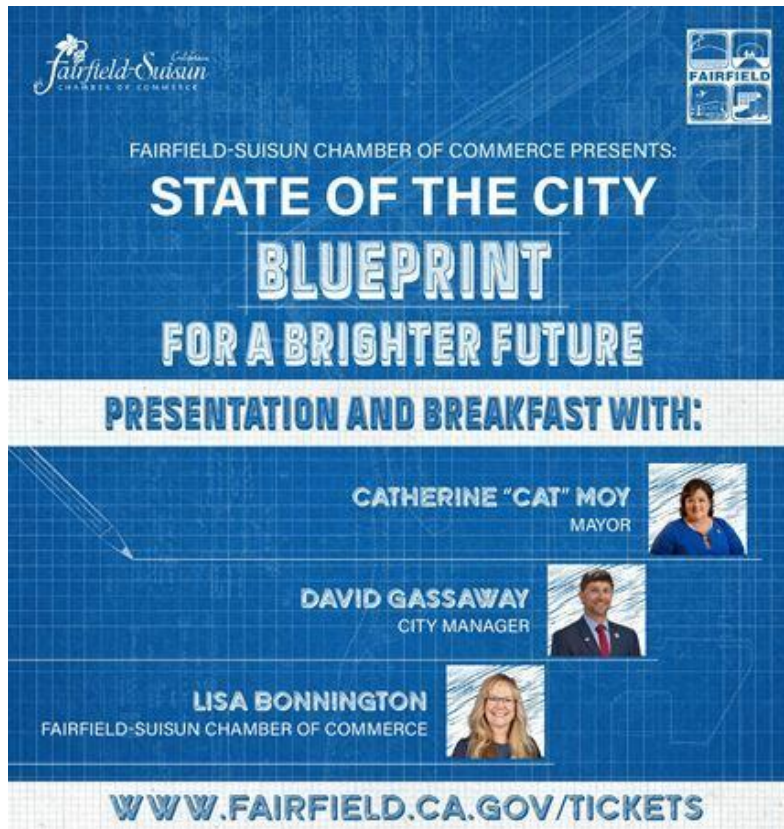


On February 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the city of Benicia and the Benicia Chamber of Commerce will host the Third Annual State of the City, presented by Mayor Steve Young and City Manager Mario Giuliani.

The event will be held at the Benicia Clock Tower, 1189 Washington Street.

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

State of the City Event to unveil “Blueprint for a Brighter Future”



The Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the city of Fairfield, invites the community to the State of the City Event, "Blueprint for a Brighter Future," on **February 20 from 8 to 10 a.m.** at the Hilton Garden Inn, 2200 The Courtyard in Fairfield.

Mayor Catherine "Cat" Moy, City Manager David Gassaway, and Chamber President Lisa Bonnington will host the event, which will include breakfast, a State of the City presentation, and a panel with local business and sector leaders. Discussions will focus on key topics such as Fairfield's economic climate, commerce, growth, manufacturing, workforce development, and real estate trends.

Registration is now open for attendees at \$55 per person. Space is limited, so interested individuals are encouraged to secure their spots now.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to gain a broader perspective of the city of Fairfield's achievements and future endeavors.

For tickets and reservations, click [here](http://www.fairfield.ca.gov/tickets).

Medicare Fundamentals

Welcome to this Free & Unbiased seminar
from the only agency authorized
by the CA Dept. of Aging to
offer Medicare seminars

Medicare

Fundamentals

Join the Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Programs (HICAP) for a free Medicare education class, the only agency authorized by the California Department of Aging, to offer Medicare Seminars. HICAP does not sell or endorse insurance products

Medicare is as “easy” to understand as taxes. Ok, so it’s not so easy. Question: Who’s responsibility is your healthcare? Gain a detailed understanding of Medicare so you can be more informed when you step out there and have to deal with agents and plans. We will cover all the parts of inpatient coverage, outpatient coverage, prescription plan choices, Medigap supplemental products, managed care nuances and more.

The event will take place on Wednesday, February 26, from 11 a.m. to noon inside the Benicia Senior Center, 187 E. L Street

Registration not required.

Open Mare Island



OPEN
Mare Island

SUNDAY MARCH 9
12-2PM
FREE SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR

Admiral's Mansion
Alden Park
St. Peter's Chapel

...AND MORE!

PICK UP YOUR MAP & COFFEE COUPON AT:
• THE QUARTERS COFFEE HOUSE
• 1015 WALNUT AVE

RSVP HERE:
WWW.MIHPE.ORG/EVENTS

The poster features a green background with white and yellow text. On the right side, there are three overlapping photographs: a wooden church with a cross, a white classical building with columns, and a white building with a red roof and a tower.

To RSVP, click [here](http://www.mihpe.org/events).

Women in Construction



LEVELING THE FIELD: Recruiting Women in Construction

NOR CAL CARPENTERS TRAINING

TRADESWOMEN INC.

FOCUS

NOR CAL CARPENTERS UNION

WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION CAREER EVENT
RSVP BY MARCH 9TH, 2025

Fairfield Training Center
800 CHADBOURNE RD.
FAIRFIELD, CA. 94534
(707) 339.2880

FRIDAY MARCH 21ST, 2025
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

- CARPENTERS
- ACOUSTICAL INSTALLERS
- DRYWALL/LATHERS
- INSTALL FLOOR LAYERS
- INSULATORS
- MILLMEN & CABINET MAKERS
- MODULAR SYSTEMS INSTALLER
- PILE DRIVERS
- SCAFFOLD ERECTORS
- MILLWRIGHTS

ALL are welcome to attend

TANK TOPS, SHORTS, CUT-OFF PANTS AND OPEN TOE SHOES NOT PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN HANDS-ON EXERCISES

The poster has a yellow background with a construction site image of a building under construction with cranes. It includes logos for NOR CAL CARPENTERS TRAINING, TRADESWOMEN INC., FOCUS, and NOR CAL CARPENTERS UNION. A QR code is provided for registration.

Fairfield Training Center is offering the Women in Construction career event happening on **Friday, March 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in-person at the Fairfield Training Center located at 800 Chadbourne Rd., Fairfield, CA 94534.**

All people are welcome to attend and must pre-register by Sunday, March 9th [here](#).

Girls on the Rise

The poster for 'Girls on the Rise' features a light pink background with floral illustrations in the corners. At the top, the title 'GIRLS ON THE RISE' is written in a purple, serif font. Below the title, the event details are listed: 'Saturday, March 22, 2025', '10am - 2pm', and the location 'Solano County Event Center 601 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA'. It specifies the target audience as 'For young women ages 15 - 25' and notes that 'Parents and Guardians welcome!'. A circular logo on the left contains a scale of justice, the date '03 / 22', and the year '20 25', with the text 'GIRLS ON THE RISE' and 'FIND YOUR PLACE IN THE LEGAL FIELD' around it. To the right of the logo is a QR code with a 'SCAN ME' label above it and a 'REGISTER NOW' button with a plus sign below it. At the bottom, three bullet points describe the event: meeting women leaders in Law, STEM, Business, and First Responders; learning about their paths to success; and getting an exclusive opportunity to tour a courtroom.

GIRLS ON THE RISE

Saturday, March 22, 2025
10am - 2pm

Solano County Event Center 601
Texas Street
Fairfield, CA

For young women ages 15 - 25
Parents and Guardians
welcome!

03 / 22 20 25
GIRLS ON THE RISE
FIND YOUR PLACE IN THE LEGAL FIELD

SCAN ME

REGISTER NOW +

Meet women leaders who have
chosen careers in Law, STEM,
Business, and as First Responders

Learn about their paths to success
and how you can achieve it

Get an exclusive opportunity to
tour a courtroom

On **Saturday, March 22**, from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, the Solano County Event Center will host Girls on the Rise, an inspiring in-person event designed to empower young women (ages 15–25) to explore exciting career paths in Law, STEM, Business, and First Responder professions. **The Solano County Event Center is located at 601 Texas Street in downtown Fairfield.**

This unique event brings together influential women leaders, hands-on experiences, and thought-provoking discussions to help attendees uncover the limitless possibilities awaiting them in their professional journeys. Whether you're a high school student, recent graduate, or someone curious about these dynamic fields, Girls on the Rise is your gateway to inspiration and discovery.

Event Highlights:

1. **Connect with Trailblazers:** Engage with accomplished women leaders who will share their stories, offer career

guidance, and inspire the next generation of changemakers.

2. **Gain Valuable Insights:** Learn about diverse career opportunities through interactive discussions and actionable advice tailored to help you succeed.
3. **Step Inside the Legal World:** Experience a courtroom tour to gain a firsthand understanding of the legal system and how it shapes our communities.

This second annual event is proudly supported by the Solano Superior Court, the Solano County Bar Association, and the Solano Commission for Women and Girls.

To Register, scan the QR code above.

For more information, contact Julie Hilt at (707) 290-0955 or SCBA@SolanoBar.org

Events I attended this week

Friday, January 24, I attended the Benicia Chamber of Commerce installation dinner held at the Clock Tower. The event is always fun to say "Hi!" to old friends and meet new people.

Monday, January 27, I attended the Vallejo Community Session featuring the Vallejo Police Department Evaluator Team from the DOJ. I listened to the community express their displeasure with what is happening with the police.

Tuesday, January 28, I attended the Community Open House hosted by Sancerra. The event was held at the Norman King Center. There were pictures of a proposed residential development, "Vista Cove" in the Glen Cove community. There were no brochures. No Q&A with the developers in front of the group. One could talk with management at each of the designs presented. I took pictures of each design proposed. The attendees were not happy. Communication about this event was very spotty. Concerns over the fire station, water and traffic. Thoughts that could have been addressed in a group setting but this meeting was not set up for this. Interesting is my word. I enjoyed meeting new people.

Wednesday, January 29, one of the new committees that I was appointed to serve on by the Board of Supervisors is the Bay Area Air District Board of Directors. The group meets the first Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 1:30 pm. I was very lucky that this Wednesday's meeting was held at Cal Maritime. Lucky because I love this institution and lucky because it was an easy drive. This meeting ended at 5 p.m.

Thursday morning, January 30, I attend the graduation ceremony for our students who attend the Evergreen Academy. I am always happy to see our students receive their high school diplomas. It is exciting to think of what their next chapter in life will be.

Thursday night, I attended the screening of *Stripped for Parts; American Journalism on the Brink*, held at Cal Maritime. I meet the Filmmaker Rick Goldsmith. There was a reception and after the film a Q&A session. The evening was delightful.

Food for thought: What happens when our local newspapers are gone? Who is watching the school board meetings, and city council meetings and reporting on the decisions made for example? I enjoyed the movie and the Q&A. If you ever have a chance to watch the movie, make the effort. The key word is democracy. The First Amendment mentions Freedom of the Press.



Filmmaker Rick Goldsmith answers questions from Cal Maritime Lecturer Jennifer Metz following the screening of *Stripped for Parts; American Journalism on the Brink*, held at Cal Maritime, on Thursday, January 30. Photo: John Glidden

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

The view from the Cal Maritime campus in South 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.