



**SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER**

February 21, 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/Count  
y Clerk**

(707) 784-7485

**Area Agency on Aging**

**Attorney General Bonta Files Amicus Brief in Support of Challenge to Refugee Ban and Refugee Funding Suspension**



An announcement from California Attorney General Rob Bonta:

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, as part of a coalition of 19 attorneys general, today announced filing an amicus brief in *Pacito v. Trump* in support of a challenge to the suspension of refugee entry and application processing, and the stop work orders for

refugee resettlement agencies. In their brief, the attorneys general argue that the Trump Administration's Refugee Ban and Refugee Funding Suspension are unlawful, misrepresent the concerns and interests of states, and undermine states' ongoing efforts to successfully assimilate and integrate newly arrived refugees.

"The foundation of our nation was built by people seeking to create a better life away from persecution," said Attorney General Bonta. "Refugees are not a burden — they're a benefit to states.

Refugees contribute to our communities both socially and economically as business owners, doctors, teachers, and neighbors. In California, we are home to approximately 50,000 refugee entrepreneurs who bring in an estimated \$1.9 billion in business income collectively. The actions by the Trump Administration are unlawful and directly undermine the efforts of states like California to welcome people into our communities.”

(707) 784-8960

**U.S. Social Security**

(800) 772-1213

Each year, thousands of refugees are admitted into the United States and welcomed into communities across the country where they can connect with services, resources, and members of their family or cultural community; these resources help them not just adjust but thrive. During the first Trump Administration, President Trump issued an executive order requiring states and towns to opt in if they wanted to resettle refugees; despite the order being quickly enjoined, 42 states and more than 100 mayors elected to opt in. States recognize the benefits of refugee resettlement and are proud to be home to large and diverse refugee populations, whose presence not only enriches the social fabric of our states and local communities, but also promotes a vibrant economy.

**SUICIDE PREVENTION**

**NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE**

800-273-8255

**SPANISH LINE**

888-628-9454

**DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**

800 799 4889

The [Refugee Ban](#), which imposes by executive order an indefinite suspension on all refugee entry and refugee application processing, conflicts with the established Refugee Act by suspending entry and final approvals even for “follow-to-join” refugees — the spouses or unmarried under-21-year-old children of admitted refugees — despite Congress’s judgment that those persons “shall” be entitled to admission so long as they are not specifically barred on other grounds.

**FRIENDSHIP LINE FOR SENIORS**

800 971 0016

The Refugee Funding Suspension, which relies on the President's executive order regarding foreign aid, suspends federal funding for resettlement agencies that help refugees apply for admission and help refugees who have been admitted into our country and are already present in the states. The suspension directly prevents agencies from fulfilling their statutorily mandated task of providing basic needs and ensuring economic self-sufficiency and effective resettlement of refugees.

**CRISIS TEX LINE**

741741

**THE TREVOR PROJECT FOR LGBTQ YOUTH**

866-488-7386

In the amicus brief, the coalition urges the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington to grant a preliminary injunction preventing this order from going into effect, arguing that both the Refugee Ban and the Refugee Funding Suspension are unlawful and:

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

877-565-8860

- Conflict and misrepresent states interests, ignoring states’ existing role in the distribution of refugees before their placements; and
- Harm states by disrupting critical work to assimilate and integrate refugees by depriving them of basic needs and essential services.

In filing the amicus brief, Attorney General Bonta joins the attorneys general of Washington, Massachusetts, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

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

## Information this week

### National Economic Blackout / Boycott



As a show of solidarity, some Americans are pledging to stop purchasing anything for a full 24 hours on Friday, February 28. A national economic boycott is a way for Americans to boycott major retailers and companies who have pulled back on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) policies that they have established and committed to

its workforces in the past.

#### Why It Matters

Our new President has issued an executive order that funds could be frozen for companies that do not comply, as well as outlawed any messaging that promotes inclusion-based language.

#### Who is Dissolving DEI Initiatives (as of 2-20-25)?

Amazon, Walmart, Target, Google, Best Buy, Ford, Harley-Davidson, Tractor Supply, Anheuser-Busch (Budweiser), Meta, Tesla, NASA, Google, McDonald's, Lowe's, Brown-Forman (Jack Daniels), John Deere, Boeing, Disney, Booz Allen Hamilton, Caterpillar, Goldman Sachs, Mlson Coors, Nissan, PBS, Stanley Black & Decker, Toyota,

#### Who is Standing Firm (as of 2-20-25)?

Delta Air Lines, Costco, Apple, e.l.f. Beauty, Meijer, Procter & Gamble, JP Morgan Chase, Cisco, Microsoft, Salesforce, Pinterest, Nasdaq, Ancestry, Mitre, Ben & Jerry's, McKinsey & Company, NFL, Patagonia, Francesca's,

All participants are also asked to refrain from spending money on fast food or gas. Speak with your wallets.

#### What's Next?

With all the uncertainty on the political landscape, who knows? While some companies have scaled back because they fear the President's executive order, others are defiant and standing firm, outright rejecting the demand to remove diversity equity and inclusion positions. Time will tell who will continue their true values and message or progress, or who will flip.

*References: Newsweek, Afrotech, The Root, AP News, Axios*

## 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](#).

## Woman in Motion



The Benicia Public Library celebrates Black History Month by hosting a film screening on **Tuesday, February 25, at 6 p.m., Benicia Public Library, 150 E L Street.**

"Woman in Motion," (2019, Not Rated.)

In 1977, NASA struggled to recruit scientists, engineers and astronauts for their new Space Shuttle Program. That's when Nichelle Nichols, Star Trek's Lt. Uhura, challenged NASA by asking the question: "Where are my people?" and embarks on a four-month campaign to recruit 8,000 of the nation's best and brightest, including the trailblazing astronauts who became the first Black, Asian and Latino men and women to fly in space.

## Mahalia: Film Screening at Senior Center



Adults 55 and up are invited to a special movie screening for Black History Month.

The biopic film Robin “Robin Roberts Presents: Mahalia Jackson” is a fictionalized retelling of 40 years in the life of one of the greatest gospel singers of all time, dubbed the “Queen of Gospel.”

**The screening will take place on Wednesday, February 26, from 1 to 2 p.m., at the Benicia Senior Center, 187 E L Street.**

Mahala Jackson was an American gospel singer, widely considered one of the most influential vocalists of the 20th century. With a career spanning 40 years, Jackson was integral to the development and spread of gospel blues in black churches throughout the U.S. During a time when racial segregation was pervasive in American society, she met considerable and unexpected success in a recording career, selling an estimated 22 million records and performing in front of integrated and secular audiences in concert halls around the world, making her one of the best-selling gospel music artists. She regularly appeared on television and radio and performed for many presidents and heads of state. She participated in the civil rights movement, singing for fundraisers and at marches. She was a vocal and loyal supporter of Martin Luther King Jr. and a personal friend of his family.

Come to the Benicia Senior Center to see the film via Kanopy, a free streaming service available from the Benicia Public Library. Popcorn and water will be provided.



## Mudslide Closes Solano Bikeway Above Eastbound I-80 Outside Vallejo



From Caltrans:

A mudslide caused by last week’s winter storm has necessitated the closure of the Solano Bikeway above eastbound Interstate 80 outside Vallejo.

The mudslide occurred across from the interstate from the Hunter Hill rest area, making the route impassable until fixes can be made. The length of bikeway between Vallejo and Cordelia is now closed until further notice.

## ‘Bank jugging’ on the rise, California police department warns

A police department in Los Angeles County warned residents on Wednesday to take extra caution when withdrawing cash at banks and ATMs.

“Bank jugging” describes the practice of criminals sitting in bank parking lots and watching customers come and go, targeting people carrying bank envelopes, money bags or coin boxes.

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

# MTC, Transit Agencies Unveil Bay Area's New Transit Maps and Signs in Santa Rosa



From a MTC press release:

Bay Area transit agencies and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) this week at the

Santa Rosa Transit Mall and Santa Rosa Downtown Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) station unveiled new test transit maps and signs designed to help make transit journeys easier to understand for both existing and new riders by delivering information that is clear, predictable and familiar across service areas and county lines. New directional signs also have been installed to help transit riders navigate the half-mile route between the downtown SMART station and the Transit Mall.

The event kicked off the start of an evaluation period for the Santa Rosa portion of the Regional Mapping & Wayfinding project, in which MTC and its transit partners invite Bay Area residents and visitors alike to share their thoughts about the test signs and maps now installed at the two Santa Rosa locations. Several “test” prototype signs and other communication materials also were installed at the El Cerrito del Norte BART station in December 2024.

“Santa Rosa is proud to be chosen as a prototype location for this groundbreaking transit project,” said city of Santa Rosa Mayor Mark Stapp. “This marks a significant step forward in our commitment to creating a more seamless, accessible and user-friendly transit system for Santa Rosa and the greater Bay Area.”

Public feedback on the new test signs and maps will help inform the next stage of the project, in which the new maps and wayfinding materials are expected to be installed at seven additional locations across the Bay Area in 2025 and 2026.

“Starting this week, North Bay transit riders will be able to use the test maps and signs here at the Transit Mall and the downtown SMART station and share their ideas about how to make the new materials work better for them,” said Victoria Fleming, Santa Rosa City Councilmember and MTC Commissioner. “We’re doing this work not only to improve the system for current riders, but to try to encourage more people to ride transit.”

Members of the public who are unable to visit one of the test locations in Santa Rosa or El Cerrito are invited to take an online survey. Full details are available on the MTC website at [mtc.ca.gov/MappingWayfinding](https://mtc.ca.gov/MappingWayfinding).

New wayfinding materials for riders navigating the half-mile route between the Santa Rosa Downtown SMART station and the Santa Rosa Transit Mall also are being tested.

“For years, we’ve heard from riders that navigating between SMART’s Santa Rosa Downtown station and the Santa Rosa Transit Mall can be

challenging. By improving signage and mapping, we are breaking down barriers and making transit more intuitive,” said Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Supervisor and SMART Board member.

The new maps and signs are part of the larger Regional Mapping and Wayfinding initiative aimed at making it easier to ride transit in the Bay Area. Whether a rider is traveling by bus, rail, ferry or a combination, the signs, maps, screens and other communication systems will be consistent and easy to identify across all nine Bay Area counties.

The Regional Mapping and Wayfinding Project is the result of a first-of-its-kind effort — led by MTC with the partnership of transit riders, Bay Area cities and counties, and over two dozen Bay Area transit agencies — to redesign and harmonize maps and signage across all nine Bay Area counties to help people navigate transit more easily. This project is just one piece of a broader effort, outlined by [the Bay Area Transit Transformation Action Plan](#), focused on making Bay Area transit easier and more convenient for riders of all ages and abilities to use.

[The Regional Network Management Council](#) includes top executives from MTC, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, BART, AC Transit, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), Caltrain, SamTrans and the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District as well as three general managers representing all other transit agencies serving Bay Area communities.

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

## **New Poll Indicates Majority Support For Transit Revenue and Reform Measure**

From an MTC press release:

Members of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)’s and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)’s Joint Legislation Committee last week heard the results of a January poll of Bay Area voters conducted by Oakland-based EMC Research on options for a potential transportation tax measure that could avert deep service cuts by BART, San Francisco Muni, Caltrain and other transit agencies; and could spur implementation of the [Bay Area Transit Transformation Action Plan](#) to improve the customer experience for transit riders. State senators Scott Wiener of San Francisco and Jesse Arreguin of Berkeley last month introduced Senate Bill 63 to authorize placement of such a measure on the November 2026 ballot.

The poll found that a majority (54%) of voters in the four counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco and San Mateo would vote yes on a half-cent sales tax to avoid major transit cuts to BART, Caltrain, Muni and AC Transit. It also found majority support (55%) in these four counties for a variable tax option that included a half-cent sales tax in



Alameda, Contra Costa and San Mateo and a higher (0.875 cent) sales tax in San Francisco.

“While it’s good to see most voters would support a measure of these types, support is well below the two-thirds threshold that would be required if MTC were to place the measure on the ballot,” noted MTC Commissioner and Pleasant Hill City Councilmember Sue Noack. “This means any near-term path would need to be via a citizen’s initiative, which would require a broad coalition to gather the needed signatures as well as strong campaign leadership.”

The poll results show transportation ranks comparatively low on the list of voters’ concerns when respondents were asked an open-ended question (affordable housing, drugs/crime and homelessness top the list) but awareness of the post-pandemic challenges faced by transit agencies is high, with over two-thirds of the voters polled saying Bay Area public transit needs more funding.

“Transit has an irreplaceable role in our region, being the only source of transportation for many essential workers, people of color, and working-class families,” added Senator Arreguín. “As we continue our recovery from the pandemic, securing funding to public transit is required to ensure a stronger, more resilient economy for all of us in the Bay Area.”

A third tax framework for which EMC Research polled Bay Area voters involved a measure that would be funded by a combination of a half-cent sales tax and a 9-cents per square foot parcel tax over 30 years to funds pothole repairs and highway improvements in addition to transit improvements. Support for this framework started at 51 percent but dipped to 44 percent after respondents heard opposing arguments.

“These poll results show that public transportation continues to be important to Bay Area residents,” said Senator Wiener. “People understand transit is essential for the Bay Area’s future and that we must not allow our major transit systems to unravel. While we continue our work to evaluate viable revenue options to maintain service, we need to continue educating the public about improvements public transportation providers have been making to the safety, cleanliness, and reliability of transit services across the Bay Area.”

MTC in December 2024 approved several policy provisions for inclusion in state legislation that would enable voters to consider a future ballot measure. These include requiring stronger oversight of transit agencies’ financial information and requiring transit agencies to adopt policies to help improve the transit customer experience as a condition for receiving new funds.

MTC is the transportation planning, financing and coordinating agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The [full presentation](#) delivered to the MTC-ABAG Joint Legislation Committee may be accessed on the MTC website.

## New bill could strengthen transgender sanctuary protections in California

California state Sen. Scott Wiener on Thursday announced a new bill that would protect the state's transgender community and strengthen a preexisting law that declared California a transgender "state of refuge."

Wiener, D-San Francisco, said in a press release that the bill is a direct result of President Donald Trump's "disgusting efforts" to "demoniz(e) our transgender neighbors."

Senate Bill 497 would require law enforcement officers to obtain a warrant before accessing the state's health-care database, and punish anyone who accesses and shares private health-care data with a misdemeanor offense. It would also expand the state's preexisting shield laws to bar doctors from complying with subpoenas that would require the disclosure of a transgender patient's medical information, or medical information related to gender-affirming care.

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

## Public meetings

### Hearing on California Electricity Costs



The Little Hoover Commission will hold a [public hearing](#) on California Electricity Costs at **10 a.m. on Thursday, February 27.**

"California's electricity rates are among the highest in the nation," according to a Little Hoover overview on the topic.

"The Little Hoover Commission is assessing how the state can make energy more affordable for its residents without sacrificing its green energy goals, with a particular focus on

ratepayer-funded programs."

#### Join Online or By Phone Via Zoom

**Online:** <https://bit.ly/40qBGwU>

**Phone:** (888) 788-0099

**Webinar ID:** 978 1425 3556

**Password:** 629825

#### Join In Person:

925 L Street, Room 175  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Little Hoover Commission, formally known as the Milton Marks "Little Hoover" Commission on California State Government Organization and

Economy, is an independent state oversight agency created in 1962. The Commission's mission is to investigate state government operations and policy, and – through reports and legislative proposals – make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature to promote economy, efficiency and improved service in state operations. In addition, the Commission has a statutory obligation to review and make recommendations on all proposed government reorganization plans.

## Air Toxics and Your Health

**Benicia Community Air Monitoring Program Presents**

### Air Toxics & Your Health

**Feb. 27th 7- 8:30 pm**  
**Benicia Public Library**  
150 East L Street, Benicia  
In person and on zoom



Are YOU concerned about breathing wildfire smoke, refinery and tailpipe emissions?

**Come to hear our featured speakers!**

**Dr. Michael Jerrett: UCLA - Public Health Risks** renowned researcher. What are the public health risks of wildfire smoke and toxic chemicals?

**Dr. Jochen Stutz: UCLA - UCLA Assistant Professor for Atmospheric Chemistry.** What new technology is there for monitoring refinery emissions?

**Eric Stevenson: Argos Scientific, Inc - Air Monitoring & Data Quality**  
Former Manager, Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Why we need high quality air monitoring.

**Josh Chadwick, Fire Chief, City of Benicia - Community Safety**  
Why the proposed Industrial Safety Ordinance (ISO) can make us safer.

**Maureen Breenan and Marilyn Bardet community activists**  
What problems do we have now and what is the vision for the future?

**Register for zoom link** You can also find registration information at the Benicia Community Air Monitoring Program website.

To register, click [here](#).

## Updates from around Solano County

### Benicia CA Presidents' Day Resistance



Hundreds of citizens gathered in Benicia, California to peacefully protest Presidential Overreach.

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

## City of Vallejo Budget Survey

Through the city of Vallejo's annual budget, the City Council identifies the revenues that the city will receive and allocates those revenues to city departments to provide public services. The annual budget covers a "fiscal year" that runs from July 1st through June 30th of the following year.



Beginning around February or March of each year, city staff and the City Council collaborate to develop the annual budget. Staff and the City Council rely on community input to guide the budget development process.

The city will be using additional mechanisms to gather community input as part of the development of the fiscal year (FY) 2025-2026 budget, including a community survey and workshops.

Please share your input on what services the city should prioritize and where you think challenges and opportunities lie by completing the FY 2025-2026 budget survey.

To take the survey, click [here](#).

## Call for Action: Federal Threat to Medi-Cal

A message from the CA Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards/Commissions:

Congress is preparing to vote next week on a proposal that would cut billions of dollars from Medi-Cal. The proposed cuts mean that kids and families would lose coverage, community-based mental health providers would close, schools would have to lay off counselors, and hospitals would be forced to close psychiatric departments. This is on top of the consequences of losing access to health care more broadly.

Take action by sharing this information with your networks and joining with "The Fight for Our Health" campaign and join the "Day of Action to Protect Medi-Cal for Kids", sponsored by The Children's Partnership, the California Alliance for Child and Family Services, Children Now, the California Behavioral Health Association, and the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network. *Below is their call to action.*

Please join the **Day of Action to Protect Medi-Cal for Kids on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**.

Call Congress on Thursday! The flyer below includes a sample script and phone number to reach your elected official.

Join us on social media on Thursday. Share why Medi-Cal matters for the kids in your life and use the hashtag #FightForOurHealth.

### **Additional Information:**

Republican leadership in Congress has proposed a budget package that would require over \$800 billion in cuts to Medicaid. This proposal will be put to a vote next week. These cuts would have devastating impacts on California's Medi-Cal program and the children it serves. 5 million children in the state are enrolled in Medi-Cal and receive comprehensive health services, including mental health care. Medi-Cal supports school-based mental health services, outpatient and community-based care, and hospital services. The proposed cuts would leave kids and families with nowhere to turn. The Fight for Our Health campaign is a broad coalition of community groups, child advocates, individuals who rely on Medi-Cal, labor, and more. The Day of Action to Protect Medi-Cal for Kids is sponsored by The Children's Partnership, the California Alliance for Child and Family Services, Children Now, the California Behavioral Health Association, and the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network.

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

## **Solano Gleaning Initiative**



Do you have an abundance of fruit still on your trees? Don't let that citrus fruit go to waste.

Contact the Solano Gleaning Initiative and let their volunteers glean your tree.

Solano Gleaning Initiative sends out teams of volunteers throughout the county to pick trees, share the harvest with the homeowner and distribute the excess to those in need.

For more information or to sign up, visit: <https://fifbayarea.org/gleaning>



## Fiestas Primavera Fundraiser

A vibrant purple poster for a Mardi Gras fundraiser. It features a yellow banner at the top with the word 'FUNDRAISER' in green. Below it, 'MARDI GRAS' is written in large, stylized purple letters. The text 'Fundraiser for "Fiestas Primavera"' is in a smaller font. The date 'SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND' and time '1PM - 4PM' are listed. The location is 'BAXTERS RESTAURANT' at '280 First Street, Benicia, CA. 94510'. The event details include 'Join us for a Celebration of Diversity in Benicia! Hurricane Mimosas, Appetizers, King Cake, No Host Bar, Live Music, Raffle, Art Auction, and much more! Costumes welcome, but not required.' The ticket price is '\$45.00'. Contact information for Ms Roz and Sheri is provided. The poster is decorated with Mardi Gras masks, a crown, and colorful beads.

**FUNDRAISER**  
**MARDI GRAS**  
Fundraiser for  
"Fiestas Primavera"  
SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND  
1PM - 4PM  
**BAXTERS RESTAURANT**  
280 First Street  
Benicia, CA. 94510

Join us for a  
Celebration of Diversity in Benicia!  
Hurricane Mimosas, Appetizers, King  
Cake, No Host Bar, Live Music, Raffle, Art  
Auction, and much more!  
Costumes welcome, but not required.

**Tickets - \$45.00**  
For more info, contact  
Ms Roz: (707) 334-3060 or  
Sheri: (805) 452-6577

## Benicia Farmers Market returns April 24

A sign for the Downtown Benicia Farmers Market. The sign features a diamond-shaped logo with a red strawberry in the center and the words 'DOWNTOWN BENICIA FARMERS MARKET' around it. The dates 'APRIL 24 - OCTOBER 30\*' and 'Thursdays 4-8pm' are displayed. The background shows a variety of fresh produce like tomatoes, peppers, and onions, along with a bottle of olive oil. Logos for 'First Street' and 'Go Fresh' are visible at the bottom.

APRIL 24 - OCTOBER 30\*  
Thursdays 4-8pm  
4-7pm Sep-Oct

DOWNTOWN BENICIA  
FARMERS MARKET

First Street  
Between B and D Streets

Go Fresh

The Benicia Certified Farmers Market will return for its 33rd Season on April 24

Located on First Street between B and D Streets, the seasonal market offers farm fresh produce along with arts and crafts vendors, specialty foods, baked goods, and numerous gourmet food vendors. Children can enjoy activities like face painting and the inflatable bounce house on the First Street Green (weather permitting).

**Market hours run from 4 to 8 p.m. (April-August) and 4 to 7p.m. (September-October).**

Interested in selling at the market in 2025? [Applications are now available](#)

## St. Patrick's Beer Crawl in Downtown Benicia



The 2025 St. Patrick's Beer Crawl in Downtown Benicia will take place Saturday, March 8 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Cheers to a shamrockin' good time as you taste up to 15 craft beers and stroll the unique boutiques and galleries on First Street.

### Enjoy:

A selection of stouts, lagers, and unique seasonal ales, snacks served at select locations with fun games, music, and plenty of lucky surprises!

Come in your best green attire.

### TICKET PRICES:

Early Bird tickets are \$35 each until midnight on February 28. Starting March 1, all tickets are \$40 each. Online ticket sales end at midnight March 7. Day of tickets are sold in-person at 90 First Street while supplies last.

**Check ticket selection, dates, prices, location, and your personal calendar carefully.** No Refunds will be issued for any reason with the following exception: event forced to cancel due to COVID-19 mandate, in which case, full refund will be issued.

## WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

- Check-in at 12:30 p.m. at Benicia Main Street, 90 First Street to receive your tasting glass, map and wristband.
- Beer tasting begins at 1 p.m.
- A map of tasting locations, wristband and plastic glass will be provided at check-in.
- Each ticket holder **MUST** be present and must show ID at check-in.
- Must check in by 3 p.m.
- This is a rain or shine event.

**Must be 21 years or older to sample beer.** DD's are free! Must have a valid ID. No Alcohol to be consumed outside tasting locations. Beer will only be served in official tasting cup. No other cups are permitted.

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

## E-waste event at Fairgrounds



## Save the Date: Earth Day Cleanup



Save the date for the annual Earth Day Cleanup Event on **Saturday, April 26, from 8 to 11 a.m.** Meet at the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Park to pick up supplies.

From there, you are free to choose your favorite beach, park, or neighborhood to collect litter. Return to location to have your litter weighed and disposed of.

Bags, buckets, gloves, and a limited supply of litter grabbers will be available, but feel free to bring your own. **All participants are required to sign a waiver.** Forms will be available at the event or feel free to print one and bring with you to save time.

For more information, visit: <https://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/stormwater>



## A message from Solano County



Starting March 1, all Solano County email addresses will transition from the current @solanocounty.com to @solanocounty.gov. The shift to .gov domains aligns with state regulations ([Assembly Bill 1637](#)) and ensures communications are recognized as official and trustworthy. Please be sure to update your contacts and communications accordingly.

## GVRD Skate/Bike Park survey

The poster for the GVRD Skate/Bike Park survey features a teal background with palm tree silhouettes. At the top left is the Greater Vallejo Recreation District logo. The main title "WARDLAW SKATEPARK COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY" is in large, bold, yellow and white letters. Below the title are three photos of skateboarders performing tricks. A QR code is prominently displayed with a "SCAN ME" label above it. At the bottom, there is a yellow banner with the website "www.gvrd.org" and phone number "(707) 648-4600". The slogan "Parks Make Life Better!" is in the bottom right corner. Text at the very bottom reads "CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING IN-PERSON MEETING DATES COMING IN 2025."

GREATER VALLEJO RECREATION DISTRICT  
**WARDLAW SKATEPARK  
COMMUNITY  
INPUT SURVEY**

SCAN ME

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

SCAN THE QR CODE TO TAKE  
OUR ONLINE SURVEY.

**www.gvrd.org (707) 648-4600**

Parks Make Life Better!

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING IN-PERSON MEETING DATES  
COMING IN 2025.

The Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) wants to hear from you about the Wardlaw Skatepark. To view the survey, click [here](#).

## 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**

FOR 6TH - 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

CASH PRIZES AWARDED FOR OVERALL WINNERS & SPONSORING TEACHERS

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.

LEARN MORE 

OR VISIT [WWW.SCWA2.COM](http://WWW.SCWA2.COM)

Submissions open	Contest deadline
January 6, 2025	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](mailto: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](mailto:shea.kinser@solanorcd.org) with questions or for more information.

## Registration is Open for the AI Integration Masterclass



Benicia Publishing and David Perry & Associates Present

# AI Integration Master Class

Smart Solutions Made Simple

In association with Benicia Chamber of Commerce

**Calling all small and medium-sized businesses!**  
Stay up to date with the latest tools and trends for your business to make artificial intelligence

**A.I.: Authentic Intelligence.**  
Join our expert panelists for a dynamic half-day session packed with the latest insights on leveraging AI to elevate your business. Gain real-world strategies, stay ahead of the curve, and walk away with actionable knowledge. Plus, attendees will receive exclusive access to the event recording—so you can revisit the insights anytime!

Work smarter, not harder.  
Let AI help you grow and thrive!

Thursday, February 27  
9am - 1:30pm

Tickets - \$75  
<https://ai-masterclass-benicia.eventbrite.com>

Hosted by:  
**Benicia Magazine and David Perry & Associates, Inc.**  
in association with  
**Benicia Chamber of Commerce**



Logos for Benicia Chamber of Commerce, Benicia Magazine, and David Perry & Associates are visible at the bottom.

# 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.

## Solano County jobs

Positions	Job Posting Opened
Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist	02/18/2025
Information Technology Analyst (Principal) – Project Manager	02/18/2025

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 regarding the recruitments listed above, please contact the assigned HR Analyst listed in the job posting.

For general inquiries, please contact [recruitment@solanocounty.gov](mailto:recruitment@solanocounty.gov).

If you, or someone you know, are interested in learning more about any of the positions above or other career opportunities with Solano County, check out the [Job Opportunities](#)

## February calendar for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall



The February calendar of events for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall:

**February 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.

## Upcoming events in Solano County Marshmallow building challenge for teens

### MARSHMALLOW BUILDING CHALLENGE FOR TEENS

Test your building skills by creating a structure out of marshmallows and dry spaghetti!



How good a builder are you?

Come find out at the Marshmallow Building Challenge for Teens at the Fairfield Civic Center Library.

Show off your building skills by building the tallest and strongest structure out of marshmallows and dry spaghetti!

**Prizes will be given out to the winner!**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25  
4:00-5:15 PM**

FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

For more information, visit [solanolibrary.com/events](http://solanolibrary.com/events).

## Medicare Fundamentals

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

# Medicare

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## 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.

# Golden West Family Carnival



## 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](#).

## Glow in the Dark mini golf



**On Saturday, March 8**, tweens/teens between the ages of 11 and 18 are invited to the Fairfield Civic Center Library (1150 Kentucky Street) to join in on a game of glow in the dark mini golf for tweens/teens!

**This program will take place after hours from 6-8pm. Preregistration is required and opens on Saturday, February 8 at 12 p.m.**

No group registrations. Only one person per sign up. To register, click [here](#).

## Open Mare Island

The poster features a dark green background with a white brushstroke at the top. On the right side, there are three overlapping photographs: a wooden church with a white cross, a white classical building with columns, and a white gazebo on a lawn with a Ferris wheel in the background. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout.

**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.MIHPPF.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.MIHPPF.ORG/EVENTS)



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

## Girls on the Rise

**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](mailto:SCBA@SolanoBar.org)

## 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](#).

## Events I attended this week

**Monday, February 17,** I attended the protest in Benicia. Everyone I talked to is afraid of what damage could be done to Social Security, Medicare, and SNAP (food stamps), for example.

**Tuesday, February 18,** I was able to attend the Black History event at the Benicia Library. The movie JUST MERCY was based on a true story. It was very moving, and we still need to work on our justice system.

**Thursday, February 20,** I attended the State of the City of Fairfield's breakfast. The major concern I had was the structural deficit in the city budget. The amount is over 11 million dollars. While the city has worked on lowering the amount, I am concern that there might not be in the next several years one-time money to pass a balanced budget.

**Friday, February 21,** I drove out to the former site of Falls Elementary School. A little History: In 1998 the school district closed the site. The county bought the site in 2021. What the county is doing now is removing foundations and concrete paths that need to be demolish as they are beyond any useful repair and present risks such as tripping. The materials will be disposed of in a proper manner. The last item is the disturbed area will be leveled and imported native soils will be used to compact the excavated areas. Our goal is enhancing site safety.



Falls School site. Photo: Monica Brown.

## Looking for a job? Consider these links

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

[STATE OF CALIFORNIA](#)  
[CITY OF BENICIA](#)  
[CITY OF FAIRFIELD](#)



[CITY OF VALLEJO](#)  
[SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE](#)  
[BENICIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)  
[FAIRFIELD-SUISUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)  
[VALLEJO SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)  
[POST OFFICE](#)  
[GREATER VALLEJO RECREATION DISTRICT](#)  
[YOUTH JOBS CORPS](#)  
[CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS](#)  
[SOLANO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT](#)  
[FAIRFIELD-SUISUN SEWER DISTRICT](#)

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## Newsletter photo

Supervisor Brown at “Not My Presidents Day” protest held on Monday, February 17, 2025.

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First elected in 2016, Monica represents District 2 on the Solano County Board of Supervisors. District 2 encompasses the city of Benicia, the portion of Vallejo south of Georgia Street, Mare Island, Cordelia, Green Valley and a portion of Fairfield.