



Solano County California

SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER

October 27, 2023



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

In Memory

My heart goes out to the residents of Lewiston, Maine. As of today, Friday, October 27, 18 victims were killed in Wednesday's shooting rampage. The ages ranged from 14 to 76.

As I write this, I have tears in my eyes. I think of the empty seat in the classroom to the empty chairs this holiday and future holidays.

The members of this community were just out having a good time, enjoying themselves.

To quote an old song from the 70's: "When will they ever learn, when will they ever learn." - Monica.

Information this week

Benicia's budget presentation by City Manager Mario Giuliani

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



Benicia City Manager Mario Giuliani will give a budget presentation at **noon on Monday, October 30**. Giuliani will give a virtual presentation about Benicia's finances, the plan ahead, and allow residents to ask questions.

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

The city of Benicia is facing the need to cut millions of dollars by July 1, 2025. Please read Mr. Giuliani's full statement from this Monday about the future of the city:

The discussions and decisions of this community within the next few months will shape the next generation of Benicia. This is not hyperbole. We are truly at a crossroads for our community. While this indeed is a heavy responsibility, it also bestows upon us a great opportunity to secure an amazing future for Benicia. But, to secure that future, we must be willing to embrace change and endure some sacrifice. Only then will we put ourselves in a position to seize the future we desire.

To that end, I have been stressing the need to do what we can to reduce expenses. The most significant way to curtail expenses is to reduce the total number of staff providing services. As a result, in an effort to take advantage of current vacancies and future retirements, the divisions of Parks Maintenance and Landscaping as well as Building Maintenance will be moved from the Department of Parks and Community Services to Public Works. The Director of Parks and Community Services, Mike Dotson, who has served this community brilliantly for over 28 years, will retire in late 2024. He is only the second person in our City's history to hold the position of Director of Parks and Community Services. That director position will be eliminated upon his retirement. All told, by late 2024 a total of 7 full-time positions will be reduced, saving the City just over \$1 million dollars...we still have at least \$6.5 million dollars more to cut by July 1, 2025.

To be clear, the move to reorganize Parks and Community Services is born out of necessity, not an effort to improve service delivery. To the contrary, the best formula for service delivery is to have Parks and Building Maintenance paired with recreation programming. Unfortunately, that is a luxury our community can no longer afford. Instead, we will leverage the existing resources in the Public Works Department to provide the command-and-control structure to support the divisions that are relocating. But make no mistake, we will have less staff to support our parks and city-owned buildings. With less people doing the work, we have to prepare for a change in service delivery. Now, if we make the necessary sacrifices today, have additional local investment (taxes) and facilitate new development, then, likely around 2027, our City will bounce back and be in a position to enhance City services.

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

What happens in the future with the Community Services Division and how we reduce the millions more in costs needed to achieve a balanced budget will be a result of our Strategic Planning Process. Again, the whole purpose of the Strategic Planning process is to allow us, the residents, an opportunity to shape the community in which we live. As a community, we are going to know by January 2024 where the remaining reductions will occur. Then in March 2024, we will have an opportunity to invest in ourselves through a sales tax and transient occupancy tax (hotel tax) to help preserve some of these programs. But please be aware, we cannot raise enough new revenue in taxes to preserve all programs. Even if we increase taxes in March, there will still be a need for some program/staffing cuts.

These are indeed challenging days, but if we Believe in Benicia, and work together as a community, we will overcome this adversity and secure a Benicia that is thriving and prosperous by 2030.

Traffic Advisory



Caltrans has scheduled a one-night full closure of westbound State Route 37 between SR-29 in Vallejo and SR-121 in Sonoma County for **Saturday night, October 28 between 11pm and 6am.**

Caltrans crew will work on bridge rehabilitation and joint seal replacements work on the Sonoma Creek Bridge on State Route 37. To ensure the safety of workers and motorists, Caltrans will

need to close Westbound lanes to safely complete the work. Detours will be set in place.

Westbound SR-37 DETOUR:

Motorists traveling westbound on SR-37 will need to:

- exit right onto northbound SR-29 (Sonoma Blvd) in Vallejo
- continue on NB SR-29 (Broadway) to SR-29/SR-12;
- turn left and continue on SR-12/SR-121 (Carneros Hwy/Fremont Dr);
- turn left on SR-121 (Arnold Dr)
- Turn right back on WB SR-37.

Federal Funding Account Objection Period Notice

The Objection Period for the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Federal Funding Account's first application window opened on Monday, October 23 and will close on **November 20, 2023, at 5 p.m.** Pacific Standard Time. The Federal Funding Account's main webpage will display a link to the [Broadband Grant Portal's](#) Objection page.

During the Objection Period, interested parties may review Federal Funding Account application project summaries and submit objections. An objection must meet the criteria in [Decision 22-04-055](#), Appendix A, section 12, including identifying and discussing errors of fact, policy, or statutory requirements that the application has contravened.

Responses to objections are due at 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, 28 days from the service date of any objection. Responses to objections should provide evidence refuting the objection, including identifying and discussing errors of fact, policy, or statutory requirements in the objection.

All objections and responses must be made through the [Broadband Grant Portal](#), which will serve notice of the objection or response to the California Advance Services Fund distribution list. Interested entities should consider adding the Broadband Grant Portal email, noreply@salesforce.com, to their safe senders list.

An objection or response made outside the Broadband Grant Portal or after the deadline will not be considered. Further information on the objection process is available in the Federal Funding Account's [Administration Manual](#). Instructions on how to use the Portal are available in the [Broadband Portal User Guide](#).

The Federal Funding Account, established in accordance with [Senate Bill 156](#) (Chapter 112, Statutes of 2021), is a vital part

of our \$2 billion grant program. Stay informed by subscribing to updates about the CPUC's broadband funding programs [here](#).

For immediate questions or concerns, please email: federalaccount@cpuc.ca.gov.

USPS warns of scam involving texts requesting information for package delivery

The United States Postal Service is warning of a scam involving text messages that ask for information in order for a package to be delivered. To read more, click [here](#).

Where to Stream all the Peanuts Holiday specials this Fall



It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown! As the holiday season rolls around, everyone's favorite gang is coming back to the screen to celebrate the festivities in October, November and December. For more information, click [here](#).

Medicare Open Enrollment

From now until December 7, those already enrolled in Medicare can make changes to their current health plan and those who now qualify can enroll. Existing health and drug plans can make changes to their cost, coverage, and provider/pharmacy network each year, so it's important to review which plans best fit your needs.

If you make less than \$22,000 per year (\$30,000 for married couples), you may qualify for "Medicare Part D Extra Help." This program could cut your Medicare Part D drug costs to no more than \$4.15 for generic prescriptions and \$10.35 for brand-name drug prescriptions.

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

Public hearings

Link21 Community Meeting

Link21 will host a virtual community meeting to inform the public about how a new BART or Regional Rail train crossing between Oakland and San Francisco will benefit riders and communities, plus how they differ. Community participation and input in this important Program will help Link21 identify either a BART or Regional Rail crossing recommendation for further study to meet the region's evolving future travel needs.

The community meeting will take place from **6 to 7:30pm, Wednesday, November 1.**

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

Attend the Virtual Office Hour to ask Link21 Team members questions about the Link21 Program and these important topics. The office hour will be from **6 to 7pm, Monday, November 6.** To register, click [here](#).

To request American Sign Language and other accommodations, email inquiries@Link21Program.org or call 855-905-Link (5465) at least three days in advance of the meeting date.

Link21 is a long-range transportation program sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) and the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (Capitol Corridor) to transform the train network serving the 21-county Northern California Megaregion, which includes the greater San Francisco Bay Area, the Monterey Bay area, the Sacramento area, and the Northern San Joaquin Valley.

Planning Commission to Consider Amendments to the Housing Element of the General Plan



The Benicia Planning Commission will meet on **Thursday, November 2** at City Hall Council Chambers, located at 250 East L Street, Benicia, to consider amendments to the Housing Element of the General Plan.

Remote attendance to the hearing will also be open to the public via Zoom. The agenda will be published the afternoon of October 26. Please view the agenda for meeting ID and password: www.ci.benicia.ca.us/agendas

Faster Freeways – Exploring the Potential of Pricing

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission will conduct a [public webinar](#) as part of the [Next Generation Bay Area Freeways Study](#), which seeks to better understand the feasibility of all-lane tolling on freeways with robust parallel transit in 2035.

The webinar will present two future scenarios of the Bay Area – one with freeway pricing, and one without. Participants will then weigh in on the tradeoffs between those two scenarios and provide feedback on potential pricing strategies and complementary strategies that could be funded with freeway toll revenue.

Webinar Information There will be two opportunities to attend the virtual event live. Both presentations will be the same, so participants need only attend one webinar.

- **Webinar #1** Tuesday, November 7 from 12 to 1:30pm. [Participate on Zoom](#) Webinar ID: 824 4356 6350 Passcode: 075326 Phone: (408) 638-0968
- **Webinar #2** Wednesday, November 8 from 5 to 6:30pm. [Participate on Zoom](#) Webinar ID: 872 8030 7682 Passcode: 930760 Phone: (408) 638-0968

No registration is required in order to attend. Public input will be used to further refine the study's analysis before a final recommendation is presented to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in 2024.

For those who cannot attend live, a video recording will be posted to www.mtc.ca.gov/FasterFreeways. Feedback and questions can be submitted by emailing info@bayareametro.gov.

Implementation Working Group (IWG) Plenary Meeting for Building Appliances



BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT Quality Management District adopted amendments to [Rule 9-4: Nitrogen Oxides from Fan Type Residential Central Furnaces](#) and [Rule 9-6: Nitrogen Oxides Emissions from Natural Gas-Fired Boilers and Water Heaters](#).

These rules govern point of sale emission standards for small, typically residential and commercial, water and space heating systems.

Space and water-heating appliances generate a large portion of nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from sources in the Bay Area. NOx is formed during natural gas combustion when ambient nitrogen and oxygen combine at high temperatures. The amendments will substantially reduce NOx emissions from these appliances and therefore secondary particulate matter formation. The

implementation of these rule amendments will be a multiyear effort, spanning from 2024 to 2031.

As part of the amendments, the Air District has convened the Implementation Working Group (IWG). The IWG is comprised of over 40 invited stakeholders representing a variety of stakeholder segments. The purpose of the IWG is to provide input to Air District staff's periodic reports to the Board of Directors on the implementation of the Building Appliances Rules and to provide the Air District staff with insights on the technical readiness of the market and equitable transition to compliant appliances, so as to not unduly burden any income class or professional group. As such, the IWG provides a forum for invited members to discuss technical and equity aspects of implementing the Building Appliances Rules.

The third IWG plenary meeting will take place on **Tuesday, November 7 from 1 to 4pm** virtually via Zoom. Members of the public may attend in listen-only mode with the opportunity to provide public comments at the end of the meeting. To attend the meeting please [use this link](#).

A meeting agenda can be accessed in advance of the meeting on the [Building Appliances](#) web page. IWG meetings will be held on a quarterly basis and notifications will be sent out prior to each meeting.

Simultaneous interpretation is available upon request at least 72 hours prior to the public meeting date. For language interpretation, contact Anna Lee at alee@baaqmd.gov, or (415) 852-1445.

Para información en español, llame al (415) 749-4609
中文聯絡電話 (415) 749-4609
Nói Tiếng Việt xin gọi (415) 749-4609

Updates from around Solano County

NorthBay to offer grief support during the holidays



The holiday season can be a time of grief, when remembering the loss of loved ones. To assist people having such feelings, NorthBay Hospice & Bereavement will hold grief-support meetings during this challenging time.

The "Grief During the Holidays" support series, via Zoom, will be held from **6 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings Nov. 14 through Dec. 19.**

Those who have experienced the loss of a loved one are invited to join the group, which are free and open to all. However, space is limited.

Registration is required. Email RobinHunt@NorthBay.org, or call (707) 646-3517.

Construction update for Red Top Road

The city of Fairfield announced that construction activities continue along Red Top Road. Heavy equipment is currently on-site and moving dirt to establish 'rough grade' for the future widened roadway. Excavation is also taking place for a future potable waterline.

Construction is being completed as part of the surrounding master planned residential developments and is anticipated to continue through the end of the year. Completion is contingent on fair weather.

Volunteer opportunities for Sister City

The city of Fairfield is continuing its tradition of student exchanges with Sister City Nirasaki Japan this winter.

Fairfield is seeking volunteers to participate in the Sister City Committee to assist with planning the annual exchanges and possibly host students and chaperones.

Students from Nirasaki Japan will be visiting in early December, and the Sister City Committee will meet virtually on Wednesdays, 6 to 7 pm, October through December to prepare for and manage their visit.

For more information about joining the Sister City Committee or hosting students, send an email to Anna Guiles:

aguiles@fairfield.ca.gov, or visit www.fairfield.ca.gov/sistercity.

Upcoming events in Solano County

Fairfield to host Halloween Spooktacular

Take a stroll through the city of Fairfield's Downtown for special tricks and treats! Boos and ghouls of all ages are invited to trick-or-treat their way through downtown. Specially marked downtown businesses will be handing out candy, and there will also be a selfie station and kids crafts available at Three Restaurant's patio at 721 Texas Street.



Come enjoy a family-friendly haunting of downtown **from 3 to 6pm, Tuesday, October 31.**

Contact Keisha Mamaril at kmamaril@fairfield.ca.gov for more information.

2023 Veterans Day Parade and Commemoration Ceremony



The city of Fairfield's Parks and Recreation Department is in full swing planning the 2023 Veterans Day Parade in Downtown Fairfield. This year's parade theme is "Saluting America's Veterans" and is sponsored by VW and BMW of Fairfield.

The parade will **begin at 12:30 pm on Saturday, November 11**, with a flyover from our Travis Air Force Base. The route will travel down Kentucky Street to Great Jones then turn up Texas Street to Washington. The Commemoration Ceremony and Concert, hosted by Travis Air Force Base and conducted by

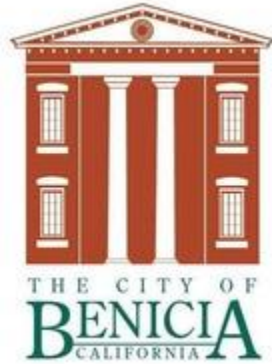
The Fairfield/Suisun City American Legion Reams Post 182 will kick off the festivities at 10am inside the Downtown Theatre located at 1035 Texas Street. Admission to both events is free and open to the public.

Those interested in participating in the parade, or have questions regarding the activities, contact Special Events Coordinator, Juan Segura at jsegura@fairfield.ca.gov or (707) 428-7584.

Volunteers are needed from 10am to 2pm to serve as parade pacers and/or parade ambassadors. Contact Program Coordinator Karen Rees at krees@fairfield.ca.gov or (707) 428-7767.

Benicia virtual town hall meeting

The city of Benicia is beginning work on a new strategic plan. On **Tuesday, November 14 at 5pm**, the Benicia City Council will host a special meeting to determine approximately five Strategic Goals to serve as guideposts for the alignment of all City programs.



Please log into the virtual community open house at 6pm using [this link](#). It is recommended that guests join the meeting on a computer as staff will be sharing a visual presentation, offering polling questions, and taking questions through the chat function. However, if you would like to listen into the meeting via phone you can do so by calling 1(253) 205-0468 and using meeting ID: 811 2405 1184.

If you have any questions about the strategic planning process, contact Tommy Conkling at Moss Adams via email at tommy.conkling@mossadams.com.

Dog Daze in Cordelia Community Park



The city of Fairfield's Parks & Recreation Department will host their upcoming Dog Daze event at the Cordelia Dog Park, 1300 Gold Hill Road, Fairfield from **10 to 11am on Wednesday, November 15**.

Dogs in sweaters! Do we need to say more? Put your pup's best winter gear on and come out to the park! Socialize with other owners while your pup gets to play.

This event is free and open to the public! For more information, visit our website at www.fairfield.ca.gov/events

Shop Small Business Saturday

The city of Fairfield is partnering with Boss Con to celebrate Small Business Saturday with a vendor market pop-up downtown on **November 25 from 12 to 5pm**. The downtown offers a variety of unique shops, food, and activities to enjoy and the pop-up will add even more to the fun, festive atmosphere.

Plan on checking off all of the items on your holiday list while supporting small businesses on Shop Small Saturday!

For more information, contact Keisha Mamaril at kmamaril@fairfield.ca.gov.

Events I attended this week

Friday, October 20, Solano Pride and myself co-sponsored a Halloween Dance at the event center. A good time was had by everyone.

Saturday, October 21, I attended the E-40 event in Vallejo. WOW what a production. The Vallejo cheerleaders were fabulous. Music of course was great. Receiving the Key to the City was very moving since the city of Vallejo had apparently never given one. The day was perfect, and everyone was enjoying themselves.

I then attended the Ranch's HOA sponsored Harvest Festival. Talked to many friends, music was provided, face painting for the kids, coloring pumpkins and running into a former student who now has a baby.

I ended the day at the Lori Frank Memorial Health Fair. Since I arrived around 1:30pm, the event was breaking down due to the wind. I was able to talk to, again, a former student and meet her daughter. Saw some friends and felt that I had a great day.

Monday, October 23, I attended the Glen Cove Community meeting that the city of Vallejo was holding with the representatives of District 3 and 6, as well as representative from the city staff, police, fire, city attorney, public works, for example.

Thursday, October 26, I was invited to attend as a guest the Benicia Friendship Club luncheon. Their guest speaker was Jennifer Baker, the Benicia Librarian. I always enjoy meeting new people and enjoying a nice lunch.

If you have had a chance to read my weekly newsletters, there was a flyer asking friends to attend the dedication of a friendship bench at Tolenas Elementary school in the name of Valerie White, a teacher for years at the school. Valerie's daughter, Sarah, did a wonderful job. Many former colleagues attended the ceremony. It was fun to talk to folks, many I have not seen in years. Sarah's play list was her mom's favorite Beatles songs.



Dedication of a friendship bench at Tolenas Elementary school in the name of Valerie White. Photo: Seth 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](#)

Newsletter photo

Music legend E-40 had a portion of Magazine Street in South Vallejo named in his honor on Saturday, October 21. E-40 also received the key to the city. Photo: Monica Brown.



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.