

**SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER**

June 14, 2024



**Juneteenth**



**Caption:** President Obama walks with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan on the White House Colonnade after their meeting in the Oval Office.

Juneteenth is a significant date in American history and the African American experience. The name is a play on the date of June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865. On that day, the Union Army made its way into Galveston, TX under the leadership of General Gordon Granger, and he announced to the people of Texas that all enslaved African Americans were free.

Even though we know that the Emancipation Proclamation freed African Americans in rebelling states (Texas being one of them, from as early as when the Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863) and we know that the Civil War had ended in April of 1865, it took a while for freedom to make its way to the western most rebelling state. Although there were enslavers who were aware of the implementation of the Emancipation Proclamation, it wasn't until



[Follow on Twitter](#)

**Important Numbers Resources and Dates**

**District 2 Office**

(707) 784-3031

**Clerk of the Board & County Administrator's Office**

(707) 784-6100

**Veterans Services**

(707) 784-6590

**Health & Social Services**

(707) 784-8400

**Assessor/Recorder**

(707) 784-6200

**Resource Management**

(707) 784-6765

**Registrar of Voters**

(707) 784-6675

**Tax Collector/Treasurer/County Clerk**

(707) 784-7485

**Area Agency on Aging**

(707) 784-8960

June 19, 1865, that it was enforced with the Union Army. June 19, freed enslaved people throughout the nation.

Keep in mind, there were still border states which were still part of the Union. They had not seceded from the Union, and they still maintained slavery. Maryland, for example, was one of them. It took the creation of the Emancipation Proclamation, the end of the Civil War, and the passage of the 13th Amendment to finally end slavery throughout the nation. The Reconstruction Amendments are significant as they came into being after the end of the Civil War. They include the 13th Amendment that ended slavery; the 14th Amendment provides citizenship, due process and equal protection; and the 15th Amendment provides the opportunity to vote and hold office.

*-National Museum of African American History and Culture*



### 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



The Juneteenth Family Block Party will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 15, and Sunday, June 16 on the Suisun waterfront.



## Books and Bites



## Information this week

### 2024 Solano County Fair continues this week



The Solano County Fair will celebrate its 75th anniversary when it continues this weekend.

**Friday, June 14**, will be Super Friends Day. Gates open at noon and close at 10 p.m.

**Saturday, June 15**, will be Junior Livestock Auction/Out at the Fair® Day. Gates open at noon and close at 10 p.m.

**Sunday, June 16**, is the last day of the Solano County Fair. Gates open at noon and close at 10 a.m.

For more information about activities/events planned for each day of the Fair, click [here](#).

### RCRC Launches Eighth Annual Rural County Photo Contest

The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) is holding its eighth Annual Rural County Photo Contest through June 30, 2024. The contest invites individuals to submit their photographs capturing life in rural California and showcasing the beautiful scenery, activities, communities, history, and charm of RCRC's 40 member counties.



**Photo entries should be sent to [photocontest@rcrcnet.org](mailto:photocontest@rcrcnet.org). All entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2024, be the original work of the submitter, and include:**

- Location where the photo was taken, including the county in which it was taken; and
- Photographer's full name and email address.

The grand prize winner will receive a \$300 gift card, and the winning photograph will be unveiled at the September RCRC Board of Directors Meeting.

The second-place finalist will receive a \$150 gift card and the third-place finalist will receive a \$75 gift card.

Full contest details are available on the RCRC website by clicking [here](#).

## PG&E gas meter maintenance work



As part of our commitment to providing safe and reliable energy, we are conducting important gas meter maintenance work throughout our service area.



**What we are doing**

- Replacing a device that is attached to the gas meter, which communicates gas usage to PG&E.
- Ensuring customers continue to receive accurate and timely bills.

### What to expect

- PG&E crews will perform this work.
- Work will take 30 minutes or less to complete.
- Gas service should not be interrupted.
- Safe and clear access to the meter is needed. If we cannot access the meter, customers will need to set up an appointment.
- Work will be conducted at no cost to the customer.



For more information about this important maintenance work, please visit [pge.com/gasmeterupdate](http://pge.com/gasmeterupdate) or call us at 1-866-743-0263.



PG&E refers to Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation. ©2022 Pacific Gas and Electric Company. All rights reserved. C22-0122-0891, 1/28/2022.

PG&E crews will be resuming gas meter maintenance work on approximately 75,000 gas meters in the Sacramento Division, including parts of Colusa, Sacramento, Solano, Sutter and Yolo counties, beginning in early June. This work is expected to be completed by the end of October but may last throughout December given missed appointments and/or unforeseen delays.

During this work, PG&E crews will be replacing a device attached to gas meters, primarily at residential properties, which communicates gas usage back to PG&E's secure network. This helps to ensure that PG&E can provide accurate and timely bills. This maintenance work will take less than 30 minutes to complete and should not interrupt service.

## CPUC Expands Existing Community Solar Programs and Launches New Community Solar Program



CALIFORNIA  
**Public Utilities Commission**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has expanded and improved its existing

community solar programs and launched a new community

renewable energy program that will allow California to capture millions of dollars in state and federal funding, including the Solar For All grant recently awarded to California by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through support of the Biden Administration.

The Decision doubles the program capacity of the Disadvantaged Community Green Tariff Program (DAC-GT), which is a community solar program that allows low-income customers living in disadvantaged communities to subscribe to a pool of solar projects and receive a guaranteed 20 percent electricity bill subsidy. This program is funded through electricity bills and cap and trade funds.

To read more, click [here](#).

---

## Public Hearings

### Housing Element Program Implementation and Upcoming Meetings



Housing! It's a big topic, and one that both the State of California and City of Benicia are serious about.

You may recall that the City's certified Housing Element was shaped by the participation and voice of many Benicians. But did you know that the plan includes many tasks (programs) that the City must complete and report on

each year?

**The Benicia Planning Division is hard at work addressing these programs and will explore next steps at a City Council workshop scheduled for June 25 at 6 p.m.**

At the workshop, key programs will be discussed that will drive important decisions over the coming year:

- The approach to rezoning site(s) to allow for feasible development at least 75 lower income units on the west side of town, north of I-780, in support of housing mobility (Program 2.04), and
- The approach to disposition (sale) of three city-owned sites for housing development (Program 1.16).

View the agenda and staff reports beginning on June 19 at [www.ci.benicia.ca.us/agendas](http://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/agendas).



Questions? Email [planning@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:planning@ci.benicia.ca.us).  
For more information, click [here](#).

## Notice of Hearing Artificial Intelligence and Food Insecurity



On **Thursday, June 27**, the Little Hoover Commission will conduct a public hearing on artificial intelligence and food insecurity **beginning at 10 a.m.**

The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. The virtual meeting will also be accessible to the public at 925 L Street, Suite 175, Sacramento, CA 95814. Members of the public are encouraged to attend in person, or to listen to the hearing by joining online or by phone. Click the URL to join online: <https://bit.ly/456yXsZ>.

To join via phone, call toll free from the U.S. by dialing (888) 788-0099. The webinar ID is 958 2100 4102. The passcode is 397643. We highly recommend members of the public access the hearing through the Zoom app.

Please visit the Zoom website for [instructions](#) on how to download the Zoom app onto a computer or smartphone.

During the hearing, members of the public may indicate to staff that they wish to make public comment by using the “raise” hand feature in Zoom or sending an email to [littlehoover@lhc.ca.gov](mailto:littlehoover@lhc.ca.gov) with your question and the phone number from which you have joined the hearing.

Public comments will be heard at the end of the hearing and will be limited to three minutes per speaker and to a total of 30 minutes.

The Commission may act on any item listed on the hearing agenda below. Agenda items may be taken out of order to accommodate speakers and to maintain a quorum. The hearing may be cancelled without notice.

If you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Little Hoover Commission at (916) 445-2125 or [LittleHoover@lhc.ca.gov](mailto:LittleHoover@lhc.ca.gov) by Thursday, June 20.

## Vallejo police chief recruitment



**Vallejo Police Chief Recruitment Community Meetings**

Join Executive Recruiters Bob Hall & Associates and City Manager, Andrew Murray to discuss what you would like to see in Vallejo's next Police Chief. Three opportunities to share your ideas and thoughts will be available on the following dates:

**MEETING #1 (Online)**  
**WHEN:** Thursday, June 27, 2024 - 6:30 pm  
**ZOOM LINK:**  
<https://bit.ly/VPD-chief>

**MEETING #2 (In-Person)**  
**WHEN:** Saturday, June 29, 2024 - 10:30 am  
**WHERE:** Vallejo City Council Chambers  
555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA

**MEETING #3 (In-Person)**  
**WHEN:** Thursday, July 25, 2024 - 6:30 pm  
**WHERE:** Vallejo Room - Below JFK Library  
505 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA

**BH**  
Bob Hall & Associates

Hosted  
By:  
Executive Recruiters,  
Bob Hall & Associates

Vallejo City Manager,  
Andrew Murray

**Questions?**  
P: 707.648.4363  
E: [human\\_resources@cityofvallejo.net](mailto:human_resources@cityofvallejo.net)

## Updates from around Solano County Mechanical Issues Continue with Mare Island Causeway Bridge



A press release from the city of Vallejo:

The Mare Island Causeway Bridge is still unable to raise and lower to allow boat traffic on the Napa River because of ongoing mechanical

problems. The city is working with Hardesty & Hanover, the original designers of the bridge, to speed up the necessary repairs.

Engineers from Hardesty & Hanover will be on-site on Tuesday, June 18, to help identify and fix the problem. It has been determined that the bridge's old electrical system, which uses obsolete parts, is a major cause of the failure.

To ensure a thorough repair, the City's Public Works team along with Hardesty & Hanover will also check for any mechanical and structural issues that might have contributed to the problem. One of the parts required for the repair has arrived this week and more parts will arrive early next week. Once all of the parts arrive and



the team has fully assessed the system, repairs will begin immediately.

An exact date for when the bridge will be fully operational again is unknown at this time, but the City remains committed to resolving the issue as quickly and safely as possible.

The US Coast Guard is aware that this issue is ongoing.

We understand that this situation is inconvenient for boat traffic, and we appreciate your patience as we continue to assess the bridge and await parts.

## Fight Food Waste



Join special guests, Heather Pierini of Food is Free Bay Area and Karen Collins, Food Resource Manager at the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano for a free online session that will provide updates on how edible food is being rescued in Solano

County. Learn about “Best By...” versus true expiration dates, what these organizations accept, how restaurants are making it work, plus ideas on how you can help.

The event will be from 6 to 7 p.m., **Wednesday, June 19, online.**

To register, click [here](#).

## Vallejo Fire Department urges residents to refrain from using illegal fireworks



Information from the Vallejo Fire Department:

As summer begins, the Vallejo Fire Department has already experienced an uptick in vegetation fire responses. With warming weather, the risk and severity of fires continue to increase.

The Vallejo Fire Department reminds residents that all fireworks are strictly prohibited within city limits, including the unincorporated areas. While it is widely known that illegal fireworks are inherently dangerous, they pose an even greater risk brought on by drought conditions and increasing temperatures.

The city requests that citizens report the use of illegal fireworks via [SeeClickFix](#). Reports will be reviewed, and warnings or administrative citations will be issued where possible. The Fire Department will use these reports to identify high-use areas.

Firefighters and Prevention staff will patrol these areas and engage with neighbors to provide an education focused approach to reducing illegal fireworks activity leading up to the 4th of July holiday. Informational door hangers will also be distributed.

The Fire Department aims to reduce the local threat of vegetation fires by limiting those caused by illegal fireworks. This strategy relies on outreach, education, and an increased presence of firefighters.

Effective immediately, firefighters will patrol neighborhoods at various times of the day to discourage and deter illegal fireworks use. On weekends, residents may see firefighters knocking on doors and handing out educational materials to further discourage the use of illegal fireworks.

“We need to work together as a community. Reporting illegal fireworks on [SeeClickFix](#) allows us to better allocate our resources and focus on areas with fireworks activity,” Fire Chief Drayton states. “The Fire Department will use these reports to identify high-use areas for on-duty patrols by Firefighters and Prevention staff.”

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

## Solano Library



**Solano County**  
**LIBRARY**

While computer services, phone lines, and WiFi continue to be unavailable at all Solano County Library locations, the libraries remain

open so you can attend programs and check out items.

The library's 24/7 digital library is also available so you can enjoy eBooks, streaming movies, and more.

Chromebooks are available for in-house library use. Library card required. Please talk to staff if you need assistance printing.

## Fairfield PD Hosts 2nd Annual Police Youth Academy



Registration is open for Fairfield's 2nd Annual Police Youth Academy.

This is a free program for Fairfield-Suisun Unified and Travis Unified

School Districts, and Fairfield home-schooled students, ages 12-17, who have an interest in law enforcement.

This unique opportunity provides students with a greater understanding of the inner workings of the Police Department, as well as procedures, as taught by law enforcement professionals. Students will spend a week gaining insight into the jobs offered through at the Police Department, the skill set needed to perform these jobs, and will have the opportunity to engage with their peers through team building, communication, and critical thinking exercises.

For more information, click [here](#). Only 25 students will be accepted!

## The Art of the ReStore

When you think of ReStore merchandise offerings, fine art is probably not the first thing that comes to mind. But we are endlessly awed by the constant stream of art donations our store receives, from simple pieces to spectacular art of significant value.

Wall art dominates these donations, featuring home décor prints, framed photography, original paintings, works by talented local artists, not to mention masterworks such as signed Chagall lithographs with authentication provenance.

Art is displayed throughout your Fairfield ReStore, but be sure to visit our fine art gallery corner dedicated to exceptional objects d'art. Styles of modern to traditional offer something to captivate everyone. Don't miss the opportunity to grace your home with artwork treasures at incredibly affordable prices!

**Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity ReStore** is located at 104 Commerce Court, Fairfield. (707) 863-0692

Store Hours: Tuesday - Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

[Click Here for Donation Pick-up Requests](#)

## Open House

 Ben Kutz, Chair Mayor, City of Rio Vista	 Mitch Heathburn, Vice-Chair Supervisor, Solano County	 Alma Hernandez Mayor, Suisun City	 Catherine May Mayor, City of Fairfield
 Steve Bird Mayor, City of Dixon	 John Carl Mayor, City of Sacramento	 Robert McCannell Mayor, City of Vallejo	 Steve Young Mayor, City of Benicia

Solano Transportation Authority's (STA) Solano Mobility Program marks a decade of offering comprehensive transportation solutions across Solano County. Catering to older adults, people with disabilities, veterans, students, commuters, and employers, Solano Mobility provides 16 countywide programs to meet your travel needs. These include travel training, medical trip concierge services through GoGo Grandparent, Bucks for Bikes, and the First & Last Mile Program.

This event is an opportunity for community members, stakeholders, and transportation enthusiasts to connect with one another and learn more about Solano Mobility and its programs.

The Open House will take place **from 3 to 6 p.m., Thursday, June 27, Solano Transportation Authority, 423 Main Street, Suisun City.**

## 2024 Summer Reading Challenge



**Registration:** June 1 – July 31, 2024

**Who Can Join:** All ages

**How It Works:**

**Readers:** Track reading minutes on a gameboard.

**Non-readers:** Track fun activities on a gameboard.

**Prizes:**

**Children:** Free book at registration; second book, tote bag, and Sacramento River Cats ticket after completing the gameboard.

**Teens:** Free book, tote bag, and Sacramento River Cats ticket after completing the gameboard.

**Adults:** Enamel pin, tote bag, and Sacramento River Cats ticket after completing the gameboard.

**Extras:**

Automatic entry into weekly drawings for Oakland A's, San Francisco Giants tickets, and ferry passes.

Prizes must be picked up at a Solano County Library branch (no mail delivery).

For more information about events at the various library locations, click [here](#).

## Call For Artists Region extended



Solano County Transit (SolTrans) is extending its reach beyond Solano County, by now inviting artists from Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano,

Contra Costa, Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Yolo, and Sacramento counties to submit their work to help the agency celebrate sustainable transit.

Embracing the theme of sustainability and connectivity within the Bay Area, artists are encouraged to weave narratives that resonate with passengers and onlookers alike, reflecting SolTrans' dedication to advancing a greener transit future.

Artists interested in this public art opportunity are encouraged to submit their entries before **Wednesday, June 24, 2024**. Up to three finalists will be handpicked to craft preliminary designs, with one artist ultimately selected to bring their digital masterpiece to life on a SolTrans all-electric bus.

This marks SolTrans' third Call for Artists in the past decade, following successful collaborations with local art communities, including wrapping the inaugural all-electric bus in 2015, adorning the revamped Operations & Maintenance Facility in Vallejo in 2016, and introducing six art installations at the Vallejo Transit Center in 2021.

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

## Meals on Wheels of Solano County



Meals on Wheels is always seeking new volunteers to deliver meals to local homebound seniors in

Solano County. Even if it's once per day, once per week, or once per month, you will be making a difference in the lives of the seniors we serve. Volunteer today at [www.mealsonwheelssolano.org/volunteer](http://www.mealsonwheelssolano.org/volunteer) or contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Anthony Lim, at [alim@mowsc.org](mailto:alim@mowsc.org).

### *Box Fan Drive:*

Meals on Wheels of Solano County is holding its second Box Fan Drive to keep our senior clients cool and safe during this excessive heat! You can drop off your donations to the Meals on Wheels office in Suisun, or shop via the Amazon Wishlist (you are not limited to the fan on our wishlist, any fan will do).



Please reach out to the development manager at [tdorman@mowsc.org](mailto:tdorman@mowsc.org) with any questions.

To sign up, click [here](#).

## JFK Library events for June



### Summer Reading June 1-July 31

Sign up for this year's Summer Reading Program for all ages! Track reading minutes or activities on a gameboard.

Participants will receive various prizes upon registration and completion. They are also entered into weekly drawings for ferry passes, as well as Oakland A's and San Francisco Giants baseball tickets. Pick up prizes at your local Solano County library branch!

For a list of Reading Program events at all branches, visit [solanolibnet.com/summer-reading](http://solanolibnet.com/summer-reading).



### Henna With Rachel June 15 1-2:30 PM

Learn about this ancient art and get your own free henna tattoo! Henna tattoos are temporary, though they can last up to 10 days. This event is intended for ages 12-18. Please register at [solanolibnet.info/event/70520789](http://solanolibnet.info/event/70520789).

### JFK Library Evening Book Club June 17 6-7:30 PM

This month's story is an LGBTQIA+ romance about two twenty-something gaming rivals. Come discuss *Conventionally Yours* by Annabeth Albert.

Conrad Stewart is popular and charming, though he fears his life is falling apart, as he could become homeless. Aslan both is an intelligent perfectionist, who feels damaged inside because of crippling anxiety.

These two rivals get stuck on a cross-country road trip to an epic gaming tournament. Can they look past their rivalry and form something very special? Copies are available at the front desk.

## Solano HEALs Prenatal Groups



### Solano HEALs Exclusively Black Prenatal Groups

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

#### Who should attend...

Pregnant Black women seeking a supportive environment to safely learn to process their trauma and develop techniques to support their pregnancy journey.

#### What to expect...

- A supportive community of pregnant women
- Improved insight into your pregnancy journey and how to empower your experience

Groups will be on Wednesdays,  
from Oct 2nd to Nov 20th  
5-7 p.m. on Zoom



Scan to  
fill out the  
interest form!

*A preliminary information session is required before the group begins.*

[www.solanoheals.com](http://www.solanoheals.com) | [solanoheals@gmail.com](mailto:solanoheals@gmail.com)



Solano HEALs will be holding prenatal groups specifically for African American families. Who should attend? Pregnant Black women seeking a supportive environment to safely learn to process their trauma and develop techniques to support their pregnancy journey. Groups will be on **Wednesdays from October 2 to**

**November 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. via Zoom.** To fill out the interest form, click [here](#). Contact [solanoheals@gmail.com](mailto:solanoheals@gmail.com) for any questions.

## Cooling Centers



As summer temperatures begin to soar, community members are reminded that each Solano County library location is a cooling center.

For hours and locations of Solano County libraries, click [here](#).

## Cook the Book

Did you know that the Benicia Public Library has a book club that meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month devoted to food? The club is called COOK THE BOOK.



If you enjoy cooking, cookbooks, or taking pictures of food this club is for you. The club meets at 12 p.m. in the Edna Clyne Room inside the Benicia Public Library, 150 E L Street.

Email Patrice for the info: [psartor@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:psartor@ci.benicia.ca.us) or call 707-746-4343. Bon appetit.

## June calendar for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall

The June calendar of events for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall:

**June 17:** Kevin & Patty Monday Specials, by signup;  
18: House commission meeting 1830 hrs.  
19: SONS AMERICAN LEGION meet at 1900 hours; Hot dogs;  
Juneteenth National Independence Day  
Act in 2021, creating an official federal holiday recognizing the end of legal slavery in the United States  
20  
21: American Legion cooking hamburgers Chris, he'll need some help please  
22

23: Coast Guard Auxiliary birthday  
24: Kevin & Patty Monday Specials, by signup;  
25  
26  
27: PTSD Awareness Day  
28: Sons of The American Legion cooking hamburgers  
29: 5th Annual Rib Cookoff hosted by Sons of The American Legion

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

## Arts Benicia

The **Solano Water Stories: Artists Voices** exhibition is now open. This exhibition funded by the **California Creative Corps, a program of the California Arts Council**, as part of a larger grant project titled **Stewarding our Resources: Solano Artists Create, Collaborate, and Educate**.



The project is engaging artists in creating original material to be used to educate Californians about water conservation and climate mitigation. The exhibition features commissioned works by thirteen Solano County artists who draw upon their diverse community experiences to explore and communicate the grant themes through artwork. The exhibition runs through June 23, at **The Temple Art Lofts, at 707 Marin Street (at Virginia St.), in Vallejo**.

Arts Benicia's exhibition is in conjunction with **Brush Strokes for Earth**, an exhibition presented by **The Vallejo Center for the Arts**, also a CCC Grant recipient. Gallery hours at the Temple Art Lofts are **Saturdays and Sundays, 12 to 4 pm and during Vallejo Art Walk, Friday, June 14, from 5 to 9 pm**.

Two other exhibitions will open this Saturday June 1 with an opening reception from 4 to 6 pm. **I. We, They. Celebrations of Gender** is juried by **Thea Quiray Tagle** and features works of all media. The exhibition will run until July 21. We are also pleased to show work by Solano Community College art students in **Fresh Perspectives: Artwork from Solano Community College**. The exhibition will run during the same period as I. We. They. Celebrations of Gender and is located in the upstairs galleries. These events are free and will take place at the Commanding Officer's Quarters at 1 Commandant's Lane.

The Arts Benicia Gallery is located at 1 Commandant's Lane, Benicia, in the Commanding Officer's Quarters, in the historic Benicia Arsenal. Gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday, 1 to 5 pm. Visitors are invited to walk throughout the historic mansion built in 1860, an important and interesting part of our town's history. For more information visit <https://artsbenicia.org>

Inquiries? Email [info@artsbenicia.org](mailto:info@artsbenicia.org) or visit <http://artsbenicia.org>

## **Solano County Registrar of Voters finds California Forever Initiative having sufficient signatures to certify to the County Board of Supervisors**



A Solano County press release:

This week, the Solano County Registrar of Voters certified the results of the signature review for the Petition “Rezoning of 17,500 acres of Land in East Solano County to Allow the Development of a New Community” (also known as “California Forever”), finding the petition sufficient to certify the results to the County Board of Supervisors.

Under state elections law, proponents must collect at least 13,062 valid signatures from voters registered in the county to qualify the initiative for the ballot, a figure based on 10 percent of county voters in the previous gubernatorial election. The Registrar of Voters projected that 14,832 signatures would be valid based on the review of a random sampling of signatures. Registrar of Voters staff started reviewing signatures in mid-April, hand-reviewing a total of six percent of the signatures submitted.

“Each team independently reviewed 3 percent of the signatures, which was then cross-checked and independently reviewed by a second team to provide high confidence that the results are repeatable,” said Tim Flanagan, Chief Information Officer and Registrar of Voters. “The next step will be for the County Board of Supervisors to accept the results and move forward with steps to either adopt the initiative as-is, place the measure on the November 2024 ballot, or order a report to assess impacts before placing it on the ballot.”

**The Registrar of Voters will present the certified totals to the Board of Supervisors on June 25, 2024, at 2 p.m. The agenda for this meeting will be available on June 20, 2024, by clicking [here](#).**

---

## Upcoming events in Solano County

### Big Truck Roundup



Bring your little ones for a day filled with excitement and exploration at Big Truck Roundup and explore vehicles from Benicia Fire Department, Benicia Police Department, and Benicia Public Works. The whole family is welcome to experience the thrill of getting up close and personal with various vehicles that make our world go round.

From towering fire trucks to mighty construction vehicles, police cruisers, garbage trucks, and everything in between, this event offers hands-on opportunities for everyone to touch, climb, and explore different types of trucks and talk to their operators. There will also be food trucks, bounce houses, games, a play area, and more.

Buy your tickets in advance. Adults are \$7, Kids age 3-12 are \$3 and kids age 0-3 are free.

**The event will take place 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, June 15, at the Museum of History Benicia: Arsenal Galleries, 2060 Camel Road in the city of Benicia.**

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

### June Wine Walk in Benicia



Celebrate summer with a wine tasting in Downtown Benicia **from 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 15**. Stroll downtown, sample wines, and discover the unique retailers in Benicia.

Wine Walk celebrates summer with a wine tasting in Downtown Benicia. Different wines will be poured at participating downtown

shops, providing an enjoyable outing to “sip, stroll, and shop” with friends.

Tickets are \$35 advance for a single ticket and \$65 advance for pair of tickets. Day of event all tickets are \$40--no price break on buying a pair of tickets. Ticket price includes 15 tastes. Participants must be age 21 and over.

Check-in starts at 12:30pm at Benicia Main Street, 90 First Street. Map of tasting locations and wristband will be provided per ticket holder at check-in.

Each ticket holder MUST be present at check-in. Rain or shine event.

Note: Due to COVID precautions a plastic glass will be offered at each pouring location.

For more information, and/or to buy tickets, click [here](#).

## Open Mare Island Self-Guided Tour



Join the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation for its second Open Mare Island, featuring self-guided walking/driving tours of historic Mare Island, Docents will be stationed at four locations to present the area and answer questions, including St. Peter's Chapel and the Naval Cemetery.

**The tour will take place on Sunday, June 23, from noon to 2 p.m., and start at the Quarters Coffee House, 1015 Walnut Avenue, on Mare Island.**



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

## Elder Abuse Awareness Forum: Addressing Mental Health & Financial Crimes





In honor of **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**, recognized annually in June, [Empowered Aging](#) invites Solano community seniors to a powerful interactive educational event. This half-day program features top experts in elder abuse prevention, mental health, and victim rights, providing timely and topical information for community members and high-quality, ongoing education for professionals working with older adults.

Older adults will walk away with actionable strategies and tactics to help protect themselves from abuse and a list of essential resources should they ever become victims of crime. Industry pros can join us for an excellent opportunity to hear from experts in aging, elder justice, mental health, law enforcement, and long-term care.

**The event will run from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 26.**

**Registration is required, and space is limited! To register, click [here](#).**

# Writing from your Soul



FAIRFIELD POET LAUREATE SUZANNE BRUCE  
INVITES YOU TO A SPECIAL POETRY EVENT

## "Writing from your Soul"

Come hear featured poet and cellist, Diane Frank,  
who will incorporate poetry and music.  
Poetry open mic to follow.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2024**  
**1:00PM - 3:00PM**  
FAIRFIELD CORDELIA LIBRARY  
5050 BUSINESS CENTER DRIVE

Poetry and Music  
Diane Frank with Erik levins, Cello

Diane Frank is author of eight books of poems, two novels, and a photo memoir of her 400 mile trek in the Nepal Himalayas. "While Listening to the Enigma Variations: New and Selected Poems" won the 2022 Next Generation Indie Book Award for Poetry. Diane and Erik play cello in the Golden Gate Symphony. She collaborated with Matt Arnerich to create an orchestral suite based on her poem, "Tree of Life."



# Hike and Write

Fairfield Poet Laureate, Suzanne Bruce, is partnering with Solano Land Trust to bring you the fourth

## Hike & Write Event

Sunday, June 30, 2024  
~~Sunday, June 2, 2024~~

~~1-4 pm~~  
9am - 12:00 noon

 3100 Lynch Canyon Rd

 Parking \$5

The hiking level is medium and will be about 2 miles.  
A docent will be leading us, sharing history and stories.  
Bring pen and paper Bring water and snacks.  
Wear appropriate clothing and comfortable walking shoes.

Please email Suzanne at [fairfieldpoetlaureate@gmail.com](mailto:fairfieldpoetlaureate@gmail.com)  
by Thursday, May 30th if you are coming, we need to have a headcount!



Due to an illness, the original Hike and Write event for June 2 was rescheduled to June 30.

The hiking level is **medium** and will be about 2 miles. A docent will be leading the group, sharing history and stories. **Bring pen, paper, water and snacks. Wear appropriate clothing and comfortable walking shoes.**

Please email Suzanne at [fairfieldpoetlaureate@gmail.com](mailto:fairfieldpoetlaureate@gmail.com) by **Thursday, June 27** if you are coming. A headcount is needed.

Please let Suzanne know if you are able to come, even if you were on the list for June 2.

**The Hike & Write will take place from 9 a.m. to noon, Sunday, June 30, Lynch Canyon, 3100 Lynch Canyon Road.**

## **Fairfield to host the 2024 Independence Day Parade on July 4**

A city of Fairfield press release:

The city of Fairfield will host the 2024 Independence Day Parade in Downtown Fairfield on Thursday, July 4. The theme for this year's parade is – "An American Journey".

The Parade will step-off at 10 a.m. from the corner of Webster and Kentucky Street, continue down Kentucky Street to Great Jones, then turn up Texas Street to Washington. The review stand is located at the intersection of Texas Street and Madison Avenue on the south side of the street.



Can't make the parade? You can watch the livestream on Comcast Channel 26 or on-demand at [www.fairfield.ca.gov/live](http://www.fairfield.ca.gov/live).

ADA parking is available at the Downtown Theatre parking lot - as space allows.

Individuals and groups interested in participating in the parade will find an entry form on our webpage. Categories for judging include band, commercial, equestrian, float, military, novelty, vehicle, and walking. Winners from each category will receive a \$150 prize. Sweepstakes and Best Use of Theme will receive a \$250 prize. Entries are due by June 13 at 5:00 p.m. Entries will be accepted until June 20 at 5:00 p.m. with a \$25 late fee.

Approximately 40 volunteers are needed to help with participant check-in, staging, and pacing. You can sign up to volunteer on our webpage. Volunteers may use this opportunity to complete community service hours.

For more information, visit our website at [www.fairfield.ca.gov/july4](http://www.fairfield.ca.gov/july4).

## 3rd Annual "Country Night at Rush Ranch"

★ JOIN SOLANO LAND TRUST FOR OUR ★

### COUNTRY NIGHT AT RUSH RANCH

FEATURING

**LOCKED-N-LOADED**

**MYRIAH MONET AND THE LITTLE FRIDAYS**

**SAT. JULY 20, 2024 ★ 3:30 TO 7:30 PM**

**Rush Ranch Open Space**

**3521 Grizzly Island Rd. Suisun City, CA**



Tickets \$35 ★ [solanolandtrust.org/country-concert](http://solanolandtrust.org/country-concert)



Thank you to our  
generous sponsors:



Join the Solano Land Trust for a concert in the park at its 3rd Annual "Country Night at Rush Ranch" **which will take place from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m., Saturday, July 20.**

#### Local Entertainment by:

- Opening Band MYRIAH MONET AND THE LITTLE FRIDAYS
- and Headliner LOCKED-N-LOADED

There will be a silent auction (including a signed Guitar by LOCKED-N-LOADED) along with food trucks by Buckhorn Grill and Di Filippo Wood Fired Pizza

#### Local Artisan Vendors:

- Brazelton Farms
- OK Corral
- Rush Ranch Outfitters Shop
- Laura Ann Designs Hand-made Jewelry

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for the evening or donate a raffle item, please reach out to [Laura@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:Laura@solanolandtrust.org)

**Day of Event:** Please make sure you dress appropriately for the weather. The event will be under the eucalyptus trees there will be

shade and sunshine. Bring your own chair, blanket, sunscreen, etc. Entrance will open at 3 p.m.

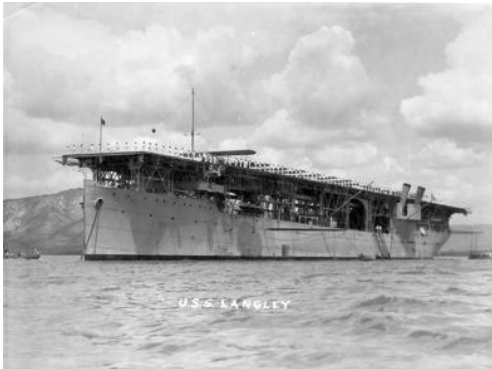
**Ticket Details:**

- \*Ticket Details: Ticket sales end 24 hours prior to the event.
- \*Tickets are transferable and nonrefundable

**Beverage Details:** Wine & Beer will be available for purchase, no outside alcohol is allowed \*No coolers allowed.

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

## Speakers Series: USS Langley



The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation will host Dr. David Winkler, renowned naval historian and retired Commander of the U.S. Navy, for a captivating discussion on his latest book, "America's First Aircraft Carrier: USS Langley," published by the Naval Institute Press.

**The event will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 28, at St. Peter's Chapel, 1181 Walnut Avenue on Mare Island.**

Dr. David Winkler brings a wealth of knowledge from his extensive career as a naval historian. With over 25 years as the staff historian at the Naval Historical Foundation and roles with the National Maritime Historical Society and Naval War College, his contributions to naval history are profound. Dr. Winkler's academic background includes a Ph.D. in history from American University and numerous publications, including "Cold War at Sea" and "Amirs, Admirals, and Desert Sailors."

Tickets are limited! Purchase your tickets today.

- Advanced Tickets: \$15
- MIHPF members receive a \$5 discount
- Tickets at the door: \$20

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

## Mare Island Founders Day 2024



Step back in time and join the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation for a blast from the past! Celebrate 170 years of Mare Island's history at the Founders Day extravaganza.

**On Sunday, September 15, from 1 to 4 p.m.**, immerse yourself in family fun, live music, silent auctions, and more. Entry is free, with paid activities for all ages. Don't miss this nostalgic celebration! Remember to bring your own chair for a comfortable day of festivities!

The festival will take place at the Admiral's Mansion, 1065 Walnut Avenue on Mare Island.

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

---

## Events I attended this week

**Sunday, June 9**, I spent the afternoon at the Pride Picnic on Mare Island in Vallejo. The weather was perfect. Food plentiful, lots of friends to say "Hi!" to and give hugs. What a wonderful time wearing my new rainbow shirt (Thank you, Wendell) and my new Oakland A's shirt from Saturday's game. Yes, we lost but I enjoyed the game. (Took the train).

**Tuesday, June 11**, was a Board of Supervisors meeting day. Supervisor Wanda Williams brought forth a resolution recognizing June 12, 2024 as Women Veterans Recognition Day in Solano County. A flyer was given to the Board members to attend the STUDENT WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY, at Solano Community College.

**Wednesday morning, June 12**, I was in Davis for the YOLO/SOLANO air quality board meeting. Then, I drove to Solano Community College. I was a trustee on the college board when the new Veterans Resource Center was built. If you are a veteran and attending the college the building number is 2700 room 2750.



There are many resources. I learned that the Governor declared June 12, Women Veterans Recognition Day, the first time ever.

Virginia Wimmer, who spoke at the board meeting was in attendance and spoke. Jenny Callison, Chief Consultant at California State Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, spoke. Celia Esposito-Noy, president/superintendent of Solano College, was in attendance. It was a lovely event honoring our women who have served. THANK YOU for your service.

Around 5 p.m., I made it to the Benicia Library. You may I heard that if your school district has less than 50% of students who qualify for the free breakfast and lunch, no money is given for a summer food program. (Tongue and cheek, I guess students stop being hungry during the summer) (Also who in Congress, thinks this is a good idea?) (Maybe they should not get paid during the summer, since they must not get hungry)

On Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m., the library sets aside some space for Food is Free Solano to bring food to help feed our families. I want to thank Jennifer Baker and her staff for giving us the space and helping with grants. I want to thank Heather and her staff for getting the food and being there to help. From the County Community contribution fund, I have been able to give \$3,750 to help buy food. On my free Wednesday's, I have been attending to help. If you know of anyone, who needs food, we will be at the library on Wednesday's from 5 to 7 p.m.. Please come. We live in America. NO ONE SHOULD BE HUNGRY.

FYI: SUN Bucks, also known as Summer EBT (S-EBT), is a new program to help families buy food for their school-ages children during the summer. Families will get \$120 for each eligible child to buy groceries during the summer. Families must use SUN Bucks within 122 days of funds being loaded to their card. Children who get SUN Bucks can still participate in other summer meal programs. SUN Bucks will not affect immigration status.

If your child is age 6 -18 and get CalFresh, CalWORKs or Medi-Cal: OR age 0 to 22, attending schools that are part of National School Lunch and /or School Breakfast Programs, and are approved for free or reduced -price meals. Child attending Head Start, experiencing homelessness, living in foster care or part of a migrant family are also automatically eligible.



From left to right: Solano County Supervisor Monica Brown; Dr. Celia Esposito-Noy, Superintendent/President of Solano Community College; Virginia Wimmer, former Deputy Secretary of Women Veterans Affairs at CalVet; and Solano Community College Veterans Resource Coordinator Amy Kennedy.

---

## 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 American, Juneteenth, and California state flags fly behind Vallejo City Hall. 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.