

#### SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER

February 28, 2025



# RAMADAN – February 28 – March 29, 2025



Ramadan is a period dedicated to spiritual growth, increased devotion, and worship. Muslims fast from dawn until sunset, refraining from eating, drinking and smoking during daylight hours. This fast, known as Sawm is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and is intended to bring us closer to God and to remind us of the suffering of those less fortunate.



<u>Follow on</u> <u>Twitter</u>

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

Giving during Ramadan is significant during this holy month for the following reasons:

**Caring for those who are much poorer than we are** by contributing to the welfare of the less fortunate, charitable giving during Ramadan helps reduce poverty and hunger, aligning with the broader goals of social justice and economic equity.

**Gaining spiritual rewards** as acts of charity performed during Ramadan are believed to multiply rewards manyfold. This spiritual benefit is a strong motivator for us to increase our acts of giving.

**Supporting and giving back to our community** helps build a sense of unity and support within the community, ensuring that everyone can participate in the joy of Eid al-Fitr (the festival of the breaking of the fast).

**Helping you grow as a person**, fostering a sense of humility, gratitude, and compassion. It reminds us to be thankful for our blessings and to extend a helping hand to those in need.

The conclusion of Ramadan is marked by Eid al-Fitr, a celebration that begins with a special prayer known as the Salat al-Eid. This day is characterized by feasting, wearing new clothes, giving gifts, and spending time with family and friends.

## Fake utility workers

Multiple Solano County cities are warning about scammers posing as utility employees as a way to enter residents' homes.

From Fox40.com about a warning from Vacaville police:

Vacaville PD said that city employees will never ask to go into the residence home to check or test your water. Police state that solicitors need to always have city-issued ID to wear while they are working.

Some people may pose as utility workers to commit crimes, said Vacaville PD. When solicitors have proper licensing they may offer products door-to-door but are not representing the city of Vacaville.

Officials said that the city does not require you to have your water tested or to have more water equipment installed inside your home.

Here are some steps that the city recommends you take:

- Don't rush decisions.
- Do your research before engaging.

**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

- Ask for identification and verify the salesperson's identity and credentials.
- Read the fine print.
- Don't let them into your home.

This is what to do when you suspect a scam:

- Take a picture of their identification.
- Politely decline and close the door. Be firm if you feel pressured.
- Consider a "No Soliciting" sticker.
- Do not provide any personal information.

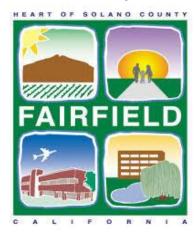
Authorities said that if you feel something is suspicious, call its 24/7 non-emergency dispatch line at (707) 449-5200 and select option one.

The article can be read here: <u>Vacaville police warn of fake utility</u> workers

## From the city of Vallejo



#### From the city of Fairfield



From the Vacaville Reporter:

Fairfield officials are warning residents about an apparent scam taking place in which people posting as water inspectors are attempting to gain entry to homes.

In a social media post, the Fairfield Police warned people to protect themselves from unwanted solicitors. "Scammers posing as utility workers or solicitors are on the rise – don't fall for their tricks!" the post states.

In the latest incidents, scammers approach residents requesting access to their homes and claiming their water may be contaminated. They say they are city employees and need to test the water in the house.

Police warned "never let them inside. ... legitimate city of Fairfield staff always carry official city ID," police noted.

They also advise resident to report suspicious activity by calling police at (707) 428-7300.

To read the article: <u>Fairfield city officials warn of scammers – The</u> <u>Vacaville Reporter</u>

## Information this week

#### **Fairgrounds Drive Project update**



#### Fairground Drive to Start Construction March 3, 2025:

This project will widen and improve 0.75 miles of Fairgrounds Drive, extending south from State Route 37 (SR 37) interchange. The project will implement a Diverging Diamond Interchange design that will significantly improve traffic flow and safety, while reducing congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. Once the project is completed, it will be safer and easier for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists to access and navigate. This is a one year, \$25 million construction contract to create roadway improvements along portions of Fairgrounds Drive, as well as providing significant improvement to the interchange at State Route 37 within the City of Vallejo. The STA has initiated the construction of the project and tree trimming has begun.

## 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 (<u>Assembly Bill 1637</u>) and ensures communications are recognized as



official and trustworthy. Please be sure to update your contacts and communications accordingly.

#### **Hercules welcomes MCE**



From an MCE press release:

<u>MCE</u>, California's first and longest-running community choice energy provider, will become the primary electricity provider for

Hercules residents and businesses in April. Residents and businesses will be automatically enrolled in MCE's cleaner, lower cost electricity service unless they choose another option.

As a not-for-profit public agency, MCE provides more affordable, more renewable electricity while PG&E continues maintaining poles, wires, and infrastructure as well as billing.

Since 2010, MCE has served the Bay Area with cost-competitive, fossil-free electricity, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting community-driven sustainability initiatives. With the addition of Hercules, MCE's service area now encompasses <u>38</u> <u>member communities</u> in Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, and Solano counties, providing more than 1.5 million residents and businesses with clean electricity service.

Key Benefits for Hercules Residents and Businesses

- **Competitive rates:** The average Hercules resident will save 8% or about \$10 on their monthly bill with MCE's electric generation service when compared to PG&E.
- More renewable energy: Residents and businesses will automatically switch to MCE's 60% renewable Light Green service in April, with the option to opt up to MCE's 100% renewable Deep Green service, or opt out to PG&E's 33% renewable option.
- No disruption in service: MCE buys and builds cleaner energy while PG&E delivers electricity and administers

billing. Discount programs like CARE, FERA, and Medical Baseline Allowance will continue with MCE. There is no need to reapply.

- **Community reinvestment:** As a public agency, MCE reinvests revenues into the community offering rebates for EVs, energy efficiency, and electrification upgrades to help people save money and energy without using tax dollars.
- Local control: MCE is governed by a board of local elected officials, not shareholders.

Hercules residents and businesses will receive four enrollment notices by mail, with service automatically beginning in April 2025, unless they opt out. Households with rooftop solar will start service with MCE at the time of their annual PG&E true-up.

More information about service options, rate comparisons, and financial assistance programs is available at mceCleanEnergy.org/hercules.

#### **Community Information Workshops**

MCE will host public workshops to provide Hercules residents and businesses with details about enrollment, service options, and cost comparisons.

In-person at Hercules City Hall:

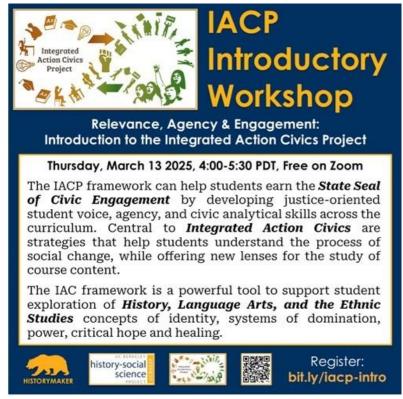
• Wednesday, March 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom:

- Wednesday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m. (focused on solar, battery storage, and EV users)
- Wednesday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m.

To learn more and register for a workshop, visit mceCleanEnergy.org/hercules.

#### **Integrated Action Civics Project**



To register, click <u>here</u>. To learn more about the Integrated Action Civics Project (IACP), click <u>here</u>.

#### **ReCoverCA Program**



The California Department of Housing and Community Development has announced that **applications for its 2020 and 2021 ReCoverCA Housing Programs will close on April 15, 2025.** 

ReCoverCA's 2020 Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (OOR) and 2021 Single-Family Reconstruction (SFR) Programs offer eligible single-family homeowners grants of up to \$500,000 to rebuild homes damaged or destroyed in qualifying 2020 and 2021 disasters.

Eligible ReCoverCA Housing Program counties are Butte, Fresno, Los Angeles, Napa, Plumas, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, and Sonoma.

ReCoverCA 2020 and 2021 Housing Programs are available to eligible homeowners making up to 120% of area median income. Additional information, including eligibility guidelines and resources to help complete the application, are available on the ReCoverCA website: <a href="https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/recoverca">www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/recoverca</a>

## Public meetings Vallejo Senior Round Table



Marco Caro and Megan Gaa, Solano County public health epidemiologists, will be the speakers for this month's Senior Round Table to be held on Monday, March 3 at 1:30 p.m. inside the Florence Douglas Center, 333 Amador Street in the city of

Vallejo.

They will be discussing common communicable diseases, risks and prevention, Followed by a Q & A session.

The round table meets the first Monday of each month. All are welcome to attend.

# Glen Cove Community Association spring meeting

The next Glen Cove Community Association Spring meeting will take place on Thursday, March 27 at Glen Cove Elementary from 6 to 8 p.m. The school is located at 501 Glen Cove Parkway.



Safety organizations like IHART will present, and the meeting will include discussion of the proposed new Vista Cove development. A food truck will be present in the school parking lot starting at 5 p.m.

#### **Community Corner**



Want information on how to make some changes around your home? Then "Jumping into Solutions" might be for you.

These series of videos were created by Pat Toth-Smith, Kathy Kerridge, Bart Sullivan, June Mejias plus more.

The first episode features guest, Marie Knutson from <u>Republic</u> <u>Services</u>. It's titled: What Can & Can't be Composted? Exploring California's New Composting Law <u>SB1383</u> & More!

This episode clears up confusing things like: which bins do I put milk cartons, waxy take-out containers, paper coffee cups, or dog waste in? And it takes a deep dive into the new expanded compost law SB1383. Please check it out and let us know what you think!

To view the episode, click here.

## Updates from around Solano County



## Kiosk for senior services

The Solano Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) is excited to announce that the first interactive information kiosk for senior services has been installed at the Benicia Senior Center. The interactive, touchscreen brings senior resources directly people who may be looking for assistance finding healthcare, transportation, or fall prevention classes, for example. People can find services, print information, or make appointments with ADRC staff using the touch screen.

The Benicia Senior Center was the first senior center to receive one of the new kiosks because of Supervisor Brown's ongoing involvement and support of the senior community through her work with the Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging, a Core partner of the ADRC.

The Benicia Senior Center is located at 187 E L Street.

#### Single Lane Closures Coming on Highway 12 through Suisun and Fairfield in Early March



From a Caltrans press release:

Caltrans will be closing outside and right-hand turn lanes at several intersections along State Route 12 through Fairfield and Suisun City throughout the week of March 3.

These closures will affect SR-12 intersections at Beck Ave. and Pennsylvania Ave. in Fairfield, and Marina Blvd., Sunset Ave./Grizzly Island Rd., and Emperor Dr./Lawler Ranch Pkwy. in Suisun City. Each location's lane closure will last a full workday.

This work is part of a larger project improving the safety of pedestrian crosswalks across Solano County. The lane closures are necessary to install the foundations for new overhead poles with luminaires.

#### Westbound I-80 Express Lane in Vacaville Slated to Open as Temporary HOV Lane Ahead of Formal Launch in Late 2025



From a Caltrans press release:

Caltrans and partner agencies are tentatively scheduled to open the new westbound Interstate 80 (I-80) express lane running between Vacaville and Fairfield as a temporary HOV lane on or around Monday, March 10.

Roadway construction on what will become a new express lane is ongoing and electronics and hardware for collecting tolls are still being installed. In the meantime, this lane will be available to vehicles with two or more people on board on weekdays from 5 to 10 a.m. and 3 to 7 p.m.

The new HOV lane runs on westbound I-80 from the Interstate 505 interchange in Vacaville to Airbase Parkway in Fairfield. As work is still in progress, we ask motorists to please be mindful of their speed for the safety of our workers. We expect to formally launch the completed express lane by late 2025.

#### Solano Community College Intercampus Vanpool Pilot Program to Launch in Coordination with STA





Adopted by the STA Board at the February 2025 Board Meeting, the Solano Community College Intercampus Vanpool Pilot Program is a partnership between Solano Community College (SCC) and the STA and is set to launch on April 14, 2025.

In November of 2024, the Solano Community College District (SCCD) asked STA to partner in piloting an Intercampus Vanpool Program to connect the Vacaville, Fairfield, and Vallejo campuses. Providing intercampus transportation is a critical need and one of the major initiatives of the college's three-year Student Equity and Achievement Plan. This initiative will assist students with transportation challenges, allowing them to stay engaged and graduate in a timely manner by providing access to courses at campuses. In addition, the vanpool will facilitate student access to essential resources and participation in extra-curricular activities across campuses.

The pilot program will run Monday through Friday and have two 8passenger vans with wheelchair accessibility that will make a roundtrip from the Vacaville and Vallejo campuses to the Fairfield campus. First and last van pickup times will be posted, and throughout the day, SCC students will be able to access a dashboard to determine van location and plan their rides.

The initial pilot program will continue to run until June 30, 2026.

#### **Digital Literacy Classes**



## Baykeeper's State of the Bay 2025



From the San Francisco Baykeeper website:

Oil refineries, corporate industry, and local cities are polluting San Francisco Bay. The climate crisis is threatening Bay Area communities with increased flooding and pollution. And the

new Trump Administration is assaulting the Bay directly with antienvironmental policies that favor industry profits and deregulation.

How can we stop these threats and ensure the Bay Area is safe for the next generation?

Join us for the **2025 State of the Bay**, a free virtual event. Baykeeper's Executive Director, Sejal Choksi-Chugh, will discuss the latest challenges facing the Bay and how Baykeeper is fighting back to hold polluters and government accountable.

## The event will take place on Wednesday, March 5, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

To register, click here. For more information, click here.

### Fairfield-Suisun City Visual Arts Association 9th Annual Student Art Show



Fairfield Poet Laureate Emerita, Suzanne Bruce



invite students to write poems inspired by art from the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Art Show

Students

Want to express your voice through poetry written in response to student art?

Please join us for this ekphrastic experience!

Exhibit will be at the Solano Town Center Gallery March 19 – April 13, 2025

<u>Reception and Award Gala</u>: March 29, 3:00- 6:00pm <u>Poetry Reading</u>: April 5, 4:00- 6:00pm

> Solano Town Center Gallery 1350 Travis Blvd, Fairfield (inside the Mall- 2<sup>nd</sup> floor- #D-8) Open Wed thru Sun, 11am to 6pm

Art may be viewed at the Gallery or online beginning March 19th <u>https://fvaa-arts.org</u>

Please have students send poems to Suzanne Bruce at <u>fairfieldpoetlaureate.emerita@gmail.com</u> by April 3<sup>n1</sup>- 5:00pm. \*For questions, also email Suzanne

#### 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.

#### JFK Library March Events Calendar



JFK Library March Events Calendar can be found <u>here</u>.

#### **Teen Anime Cafe**



Web: solanolibrary.com Phone: 1-866-572-7587 🖬 🞯 🗭 🗟: solanolibrary

## **TEEN ANIME CAFE**

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon to watch anime, eat Japanese snacks, read manga, and make some new friends.



#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH12 4-5:30PM

FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

For more information, visit solanolibrary.com/events.

### **Benicia Farmers Market returns April 24**



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? <u>Applications are now</u> available

## **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: <u>https://fifbayarea.org/gleaning</u>

#### 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

#### **STA Job Announcement**



The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) is pleased to announce that we are currently accepting applications for the following position:

Administrative Assistant I (PT – 18

hrs./wk)

Hourly Rate: \$25.05 - \$30.43

OPEN UNTIL FILLED. This posting could close without notice when a sufficient number of applications are received. Candidates are encouraged to apply early in the process for optimal consideration.

#### THE OPPORTUNITY:

Under the supervision of the Clerk of the Board/Office Manager, the Administrative Assistant I will support the various departments and

provide a variety of specialized and responsible administrative clerical and operational functions. The Administrative Assistant I position supports programs and projects, and assists in the coordination, monitoring and reporting. Performs related duties as assigned.

#### TO APPLY:

To apply for this opportunity, please visit the STA website and download an application at <u>Employment Opportunities - Solano</u> <u>Transportation Authority</u>

#### Solano County Water Agency accepting entries for Water Awareness Video Contest



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 <u>here</u>.

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

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

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

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

#### **GVRD Skate/Bike Park survey**



The Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) wants to hear from you about the Wardlaw Skatepark. To view the survey, click <u>here</u>.

## Solano County jobs

Positions	Job Posting Opened
Equipment Mechanic	02/27/2025
Planner (Senior)	02/21/2025

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.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in learning more about the Solano County career opportunities, review the <u>Job</u> <u>Opportunities</u>.

#### March calendar for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall



The March calendar of events for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall:

March 1: Seabee birthday

3 Navy Reserve Birthday

4 Hug A G.I. Day; Mardi Gras

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

7 Hamburgers by The American Legion Aux

- 9 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 11 Boys Under the Hood meeting, Hot dogs

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

- 13 K9 Veterans Day
- 14 VFW Hamburgers
- 15 Crab Feed; American Legion will celebrate its 102nd birthday

17 St. Patrick's Day

18 House commission meeting 1830 hrs.

19 SONS AMERICAN LEGION meet at 1900 hours; Judy's Hot dogs

21 Hamburgers by VFW Aux ; Rosie the Riveter Day

- 23 Military World Games March 23-30, 2025 SWITZERLAND
- 25 National Medal of Honor Day
- 28 Hamburgers by The American Legion

29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day

#### Winter Shelter at BayNorth Church of Christ

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

The winter shelter will operate each night through March 31, 2025. The intake process will be from 6:30 to 8 pm and the shelter exit time will be 6 am each morning. Those



needing shelter are allowed to line up starting at 6 pm.

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

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

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

## Upcoming events in Solano County Fiestas Primavera Fundraiser





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: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WON01MNNnB4</u>

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.

#### **City of Benicia Blood Drive**



Are you ready to be a hero? Donate blood! The city of Benicia is hosting a Blood Drive at the Clock Tower on **Thursday, March 6**, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

To make an appointment:

- Click the button below.
- Click on "Blood Drive Code".
- Input the blood drive code "BeniciaFire".
- Click "Find Locations".
- Click "See Times" and select your preferred available slot.

#### Appointments are encouraged but not required.

Please note: Donors should arrive well-nourished and hydrated with photo identification. The donation process takes approximately one hour

To make an appointment, click here.

# 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.

#### 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 <u>here</u>.

## **Open Mare Island**



To RSVP, click here.

# E-waste event at the Solano County Fairgrounds



#### Free compost giveaway

Attention Benicia Gardeners!

# Free Compost Giveaway\*

Saturday, March 15, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Alvarez Ninth Street Park in Benicia

Appointments are required. For instructions and to sign up go to: RepublicServices.com/BeniclaCA

Wesse bring driver's license with Benicio oddress. Event is for Benicio residents only

#### What to Do to Collect Your Compost

Customers will fill their own containers. Limited Suggestions: staff will be on hand to assist those who need help. 5-gallon buckets work best. (Limit is 40 gallons or eight 5-gallon buckets per household.)

1. Bring a shovel, containers and gloves Wear closed-toe shoes 3. Bring 5-gallon buckets or other strong containers that you can lift yourself. No Bags or truck beds.



#### Ca trante Music at the Chapel: A Celebration of St. **Patrick's Day**



Enjoy a festive St. Patrick's Day celebration at this concert by Irish singer Robert Scott! Robert will perform a wide array of traditional Irish tunes. After the concert, you can enjoy a delicious Mare Island Brew in our beer garden on the lawn of the Chapel. Great fun for everyone!

The event will take place from 3 to 4 p.m.,

Sunday, March 16, inside St. Peter's Chapel, 1181 Walnut Avenue on Mare Island in the city of Vallejo.

To purchase tickets, click here.

#### **Dog Daze**



Join the city of Fairfield's Parks and Recreation for a tail-wagging good time at the Doggie Photo Booth on **Saturday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Allan Witt Dog Park!** 

There will be free treats, fun activities, and a photo op that's guaranteed to make your pup Instagram-famous. Whether they're a diva dog or a shy snuggler, we've got the perfect setup for their moment in the spotlight.

The park is located at 1741 W. Texas Street.

#### **Girls on the Rise** ON THE RISE RLS 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! PUR PLACE IN THE 0 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 inperson 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 <u>SCBA@SolanoBar.org</u>

## **Sourcing Local Food in Benicia**

Join Stephanie Jordan, Local Food Program Manager at Sustainable Solano, for an evening learning about Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and how you can get fresh produce, fish, meat, eggs (and more) for you and your family each week.

Stephanie will give a brief tour and overview of Benicia's CSA site, discuss the economic and environmental impacts of buying local, and then showcase that week's produce in a cooking demonstration and tasting. The event will take place on Wednesday, April 2 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., inside Heritage Presbyterian Church, 1400 East Second Street in downtown Benicia.

To register, click here.

## Speaker Series: All Things Organ

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



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

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

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

To purchase tickets, click here.

#### **Events I attended this week**

**Saturday, February 22**, I attended the Solano County 4-H Presentation Day held at Benicia Middle School. There were many activities. I went to the Educational Display Talk and engaged students in their work. Topics ranged from The Mystery of King Tut's Tomb to My Mantis Mania. Each student knew their material and the dialogue was delightful. I also watched the fashion show as students wore the clothing they made. For lunch, I had a chili dog cooked by the Elmira 4-H Club.

I want to thank Michael for the invite, and I bet some of you have guessed that he is a former student.

**Monday, February 24**, my staff and I went to the International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC) Local 8 training center in Vallejo. This program teaches everything you need to know about elevators. These are good paying jobs. Looking for a job? Check out career at CTWI at Construction Trades Workforce Initiative. For more information, click <u>here</u>.



District Representative Wanda Madeiros (left) and Supervisor Monica Brown listen to Joel Roberts, Area Coordinator Region 8, for the National Elevator Industry Educational Program, during a tour of the IUEC 8 training hall in Vallejo on Monday, February 24. Photo: John Glidden

**Wednesday February 26**, I spent most of the day at Rush Ranch with 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Benicia Middle School. This is a program sponsored by Solano CRD (Conservation Resource District). Dr. Butler and other teachers take students out to teach them why water, birds, (nature) ecology is important. Students spend time looking at the type of grasses and learn why the different colors to what creatures live in the Marsh. I always love going. To wrap of the day, students can draw pictures and write what they feel about the experience.

One young lady (Pepper) let me read what she wrote and gave me permission to put it in the newsletter:

Rush Ranch now a hush,

Flattened grass and moments of glass.

Time woven not unbroken,

Everything spoken has woken something in me.

Rush Ranch gushing with light, can't you see?



Pepper with Supervisor Brown. Photo: Solano Resource Conservation District.

**Thursday night, February 27**, I spent the evening at the Benicia library listening to the Air Toxics and your Health discussion. There were scientists from UCLA (love Zoom). There were over 75 on Zoom when we started, and the library was full. Many of you might remember the Aliso Canyon Disaster in Southern California. I would suggest you read the report. The program was well put together and thank you Constance for taping it.

Please stay dry this weekend.

#### 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 <u>HERE</u> to access the website and follow on Facebook <u>@SolanoCountyJobs</u>. 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**

Solano County Supervisor Monica Brown tours the IUEC 8 training hall in Vallejo on Monday, February 24. IUEC is the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 8, serving Northern California and Northern Nevada. 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.