

SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER

March 7, 2025



National Women's History Month



Women's History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978. The organizers selected the week of March 8 to correspond with International Women's Day. The movement spread across the country as other communities initiated their own Women's History Week celebrations the following year.

In 1980, a consortium of women's groups and historians led by the National Women's History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance) successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential



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Important Numbers Resources and Dates

District 2 Office

(707) 784-3031

Clerk of the Board & County Administrator's Office

(707) 784-6100

Veterans Services

(707) 784-6590

Health & Social Services

(707) 784-8400

Assessor/Recorder

(707) 784-6200

Resource Management

(707) 784-6765

Registrar of Voters

(707) 784-6675

Tax
Collector/Treasurer/County
Clerk

(707) 784-7485

Area Agency on Aging

(707) 784-8960

Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th 1980 as National Women's History Week.

"From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well." (*President Jimmy Carter's Message*)

Each year, The National Women's History Alliance selects and publishes the yearly theme. This year, the theme chosen is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations."

Dr. Mary E. Walker



She is the Sole Female Medal of Honor Recipient.

Born in Oswego, New York, Walker grew up in a progressive household with parents who encouraged independence, education and justice, especially for women's rights. Embracing her upbringing, she became determined from a young age to defy traditional feminine roles and standards on the principle of injustice. From her clothes to her work, she often encountered criticism because she was

everything a 19th century woman was not. Never wavering, she saved enough money to pay her way through college and graduated from medical college. She joined private practices before the Civil War broke out. Eager to join the war and serve as a surgeon, she traveled to Washington, D.C., where she met disapproval, because she was a woman. She simply did not take no for an answer. She was offered a nurse roll, but declined, knowing she had the credentials to be a surgeon. So instead, she asked to volunteer for the Union Army. At first, she was only allowed to practice as a nurse. She served in numerous battles, including in the First Battle of Bull Run, the war's first major battle, as well as the Battle of Fredericksburg.

There have been over 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients and she is the only woman to have received it. Although her medal was initially rescinded before her death, it was eventually reinstated.

She served in the U.S. Army as a Medical Surgeon during the Civil War. She was the only female medical doctor who graduated from

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

Syracuse Medical College in 1855. Prior to being commissioned in the Army, she volunteered as an **unpaid** field surgeon near the frontlines. In 1863, she became the first female surgeon of the U.S. Army. In 1864, she was taken as a prisoner of war by Confederate troops. In 1865, she became the first and only woman to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. In 1917, her Medal of Honor was rescinded; In 1977 her Medal of Honor was restored by President Jimmy Carter, long after her death in 1919.

Attorney General Bonta Secures Preliminary Injunction Against Trump Administration Blocking Harmful Federal Funding Freeze

An announcement from California Attorney General Rob Bonta:

California Attorney
General Rob Bonta today
secured a decision by the
U.S. District Court for the
District of Rhode Island
preventing the Trump
Administration from
implementing a sweeping



federal funding freeze while litigation continues. The Court finds that the states are likely to succeed in their claims that the Trump Administration violated the Administrative Procedure Act by freezing funds in contravention of underlying appropriations statutes and that their actions were arbitrary and capricious. The Court specifically notes that the Trump Administration has failed to rebut the harms that the states have presented, including to the states' most vulnerable residents. These include the potential impacts to services that increase workplace health and safety, water quality, critical transportation infrastructure, and law enforcement and public safety, as well as programs such as Head Start, education services for students with disabilities, and research projects at state universities. Attorney General Bonta led a coalition of 23 attorneys general in filing a lawsuit to block the funding freeze last month.

"Last month, the Trump Administration chaotically implemented a sweeping federal funding freeze, halting access to billions of dollars in funds lawfully appropriated by Congress. In doing so, it willfully ignored the immediate devastation a freeze would have on the health, safety, and wellbeing of communities and businesses across the country," said Attorney General Bonta. "Staff in my office worked overnight to ready a lawsuit challenging this illegal freeze and have continued to fight for these critical funds. Today's decision is an important victory for the rule of law and for the many programs throughout our state that rely on federal funding to carry

out their mission. But the fight is not over, and we will continue to work to secure a permanent decision blocking this radical freeze."

BACKGROUND

Last month, a coalition of 23 attorneys general, led by the attorneys general of California, New York, Rhode Island, Illinois, and Massachusetts, sued the Trump Administration over its attempt to freeze up to \$3 trillion in vital federal funding. The U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island quickly granted the attorneys general's request for a temporary restraining order, blocking the freeze's implementation until further order from the court. Soon after, the attorneys general filed motions for enforcement and a preliminary injunction to stop the illegal freeze and preserve federal funding that families, communities, and states rely on. The court granted the motion for enforcement, ordering the Administration to immediately comply with the temporary restraining order and stop unlawfully freezing federal funds.

In just this fiscal year, California is expected to receive \$168 billion in federal funding – 34% of the state's budget – not including funding for the state's public college and university system. This includes \$107.5 billion in funding for California's Medicaid programs, which serve approximately 14.5 million Californians, including 5 million children and 2.3 million seniors and people with disabilities. Additionally, over 9,000 full-time equivalent state employee positions are federally funded.

Attorney General Bonta is joined by the attorneys general of Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin in securing the preliminary injunction.

A copy of the preliminary injunction is available here.

Information this week

Protect Medicaid

It's crucial that we act on this immediately!

It is vitally important to contact our legislators. Our constituents have high SSI/Medicaid enrollment in Solano County.

Español a Continuación:

Please call in and leave a message to <u>Save</u>

Medicaid. Please take 2 minutes to make a call.

• Call number: (866)426-2631

Link to click-to-call form

This hotline makes it really simple, just dial the number and it will provide you with talking points and then connect you with your member of Congress.

Salvar Medicaid. Tómese 2 minutos para hacer una llamada.

Número de llamada: (866)426-2631 (presiona #1 para Español)

Esta línea directa lo hace realmente simple, solo marque el número y presiona #1 para Español. Le brindará puntos de conversación y luego lo conectará con su miembro del Congreso.

Crypto Strategic Reserve



President Trump on Sunday announced that the U.S. will create a "crypto strategic reserve" Here's what to know –

Key Facts – (per the President)

The reserve will elevate the industry after years of corrupt attacks.

- The reserve will include bitcoin and ethereum, along with XRP. ADA and solana.
- Builds on the executive order issued on January 23rd directing his administration to form a working group who will propose a regulatory framework on digital assets, which will also evaluate a "national digital asset stockpile."

As of January, this year, the federal government already has an estimated \$19 billion in bitcoin that it has seized through its law enforcement efforts. It could simply hang on to it, or sell off its crypto holdings, which it has done in the past, which has led to historically drive down crypto prices when that has happened. The President wants to build the current stockpile, but this would also likely require congressional approval.

Critics – Some Economists have raised concerns about this tactic. Stating that cryptocurrency is volatile and would be a gamble that would primarily benefit existing crypto holders, and which could potentially result in billions worth of taxpayer money getting wiped out, should the industry take a downturn. Also there are claims of conflict of interest in the President's administration of people who have ties as well as ownership in cryptocurrency companies who could influence policies that could impact the cryptocurrency industry.

Advocates - believe that a stockpile would shrink the national debt by increasing federal revenue through the growing value of the government's crypto investments, including leveling the volatility levels, which occur during a government sell off. In addition, the stockpile would also help to shrink the national debt by increasing federal revenue through growing value of the government's crypto investments.

Mark Zandi, the chief economist at Moody's Analytics recently was quoted saying "There's just no discernible logic to do it. I get why the crypto investor would love it. Other than the crypto investor, I don't see the value, particularly if taxpayers are the ones who have to ante up."

Is this gambling with taxpayers' money? Taxpayers will be the judge as this moves forward.

Contacts: Congressman Garamendi at (202) 225-1880

U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553 / U.S. Senator Adam Schiff (202) 224-3841

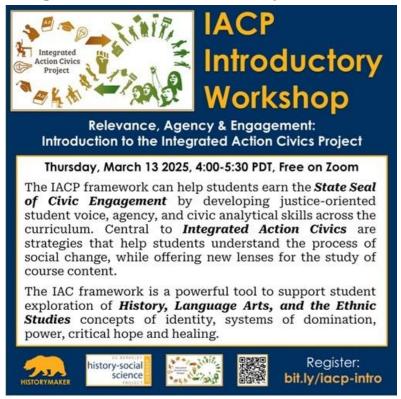
A message from Solano County



Starting March 1, all Solano County email addresses will transition from the current @solanocounty.com to @solanocounty.gov. The shift to .gov domains aligns with state regulations (Assembly Bill 1637) and ensures communications

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

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: www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/recoverca

City of Vacaville Extends Application Deadline; Encourages Residents to Apply to Serve on Commissions



The city of Vacaville has extended the application deadline to **Monday**, **March 10**, **5:30 p.m.**, and encourages residents interested in serving their community to apply for the Planning and Parks & Recreation Commissions.

The **commissions** are advisory groups to the City Council.

By serving on a city commission,

members will help plan the future of Vacaville by participating in the democratic process. In an advisory role to the City Council, Commissions are an avenue for obtaining citizen input by gathering, analyzing, and discussing information and determining the community's sentiment on a variety of topics. Ultimately, each Commission makes recommendations to the City Council for consideration.

To be considered, applicants must be 18 years old and reside within the incorporated limits of the City of Vacaville. Commissioners serve two-year, staggered terms. If you are interested in serving on a commission, please complete an online application. It is highly recommended to upload a resume in addition to completing the application:

Planning Commission and Parks & Recreation Commission

Planning Commission members review new development projects and make recommendations on City planning issues. A formal landuse planning education is not required, but members are expected to become familiar with the City's General Plan, zoning ordinance, and legislation affecting planning. The Planning Commission meets at 6:00 PM on the third Tuesday of the month and at other times as announced (including the first Tuesday of the month, if needed).

The Parks & Recreation Commission advises the City Council on recreation and cultural arts activities. The Commission meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM.

To be considered for appointment for an expiring term, applications must be received no later than 5:30 PM, Monday, March 10, 2025.

Contact (707) 449-5110 or cityclerk@cityofvacaville.com for additional information.

CALL FOR ACTION: Urge Congress to Maintain Critical Behavioral Health Services



A press release from the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards &

Commissions (CALBHB/C)

CALBHB/C urges Congress to maintain critical behavioral health services

Sweeping reductions in Medicaid funding being considered by Congress would have devastating impacts on California's behavioral health care continuum, resulting in higher financial costs to individuals, families and local communities as services, clinics, and hospitals close and uninsured individuals lose access to providers and medication, and instead access high-cost systems only when in crisis, increasing use of crisis services, hospitalization and incarceration. The impact would touch nearly every household in California, with devastating consequences to local communities throughout the state, including:

Facility Closures

California hospitals could lose \$1.2 billion due to proposed cuts. Many small and rural hospitals are already financially stressed, and some are at significant risk of financial failure. Funding for 16 hospitals would be in jeopardy without continued support from Medi-Cal.

Community Health Centers

Slashing essential Medi-Cal funding would destabilize community health centers, forcing cutbacks in health services, staffing reductions and even potential closures of health centers. California's over 1,300 non-profit community health centers provide 24 million patient visits per year for anyone who needs care.

Jails & Prisons

Medi-Cal jail in-reach services prevent individuals with mental health conditions from deteriorating in the community when they are released, reducing the commission of new crimes. These services are at risk. Increased costs associated with incarceration will impact state and local budgets:

Prison costs \$133,110 per person per year; County jail costs appr. \$89,580 per person per year in L.A. County. 80% of those incarcerated in CA jails and prisons have substance use disorder (SUD) (General population percentage in CA is 9.2%); 36% of those incarcerated in CA jails and prisons have a mental illness. (General population percentage in CA is 15.9%)

Millions will Lose Coverage

Over 15 million people in California are enrolled in Medicaid, including 2 in 5 people with a mental illness or substance use challenge and 1 in 10 veterans. \$184 billion in Medi-Cal spending is budgeted for 2024-2025, including \$107 billion in federal funds. 29.7% of adults with mental illness receive Medi-Cal, about 10% have a serious mental illness like schizophrenia.

5 million children in the state are enrolled in Medi-Cal and receive comprehensive health services, including mental health care. Medi-Cal supports school-based mental health services, outpatient and community-based care, and hospital services. Medicaid covers 28% of children in California with special health care needs and disabilities, including medical, behavioral health, and long-term care for children with special health care needs and disabilities.

Substantive Increases in Suicide and Drug Overdoses could result since Medicaid is the single largest payer for mental health & substance use disorder (SUD) services. Most recent data:

Drug Overdoses:

Over 11,145 Californians died from drug overdoses from July 2023 - June 2024. Of those, 59% or nearly 6500 were related to fentanyl. Fentanyl was responsible for 1 in 5 deaths among 15 - 24-year-olds in 2021.

Burden of Suicide Deaths:

The burden of suicide deaths in California increased from 3863 in 2012 to 4312 in 2022. The most likely group to die by suicide are white men over the age of 25. The highest rate increase was for Latinos (35.6%) followed by African Americans (31.1%) in 2010-2019.

In 2018, 21 percent of suicides were among older adults, for a rate of 16.3 deaths per 100,000 Californians aged 65 and older, many covered by Medi-Cal. Suicide was the second leading cause of death among youth in California 10-25 years of age between 2019-2021

More Information: Fact Sheet (Compiled by the California Coalition for Behavioral Health (CCBH)

Public meetings

CARE Act Town Hall



CARE Act Town Hall

The Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act is a voluntary, community based process designed to help individuals with a primary diagnosis of schizophrenia or psychotic disorder and the individual is not clinically stabilized and engaged in ongoing voluntary treatment. The CARE Act process supports access to treatment, supportive services, and other recovery based services. It aims to improve mental health outcomes while balancing civil rights, public safety, and family involvement through a structured, communitybased CARE Agreement or Plan.

CARE Act Overview

Presentation by Nancy M. Callahan, Ph.D. I.D.E.A. Consulting

CARE Act Q&A Panel

The CARE Act panel will cover tools and resources under the CARE Act, the Solano Legal Access Center's Support to Petitioners and Solano County's role in the process.

NAMI Solano County will also share support and education resources available to the community.

Where can I find more information about the CARE Act? Please visit:

https://NamiSolanoCounty.org/resources/ care-act-your-pathway-to-support-care

Sponsored by



REGISTER

NOW!

Questions? Contact careact@namisolanocounty.org

To register, click here.

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.



Want to reduce your heating/ac bills, but want the fixes to be affordable with using your existing electric panel? In this video, energy expert Tom Kabat, talks you through some effective methods to increase your home appliance efficiency, reduce your heating bills, all at low cost!

To view the episode, click here.

Updates from around Solano County

High School Scholarship hosted by La Raza Lawyers Association of Solano County

La Raza Lawyers Association of Solano County has been in existence for the past twenty-four years.

This year marks the 22nd annual high school scholarship award application. The scholarship application is open to all seniors of

Latino/Hispanic ancestry graduating from any Solano County public high school, including continuation school.

The scholarship program is designed to provide professional encouragement and public recognition to high school seniors of Latino/Hispanic heritage entering higher education.

The deadline to apply is Friday, April 18 at 5 p.m. To apply, click here.

La Raza Lawyers Association of Solano 2025 High School Scholarship Dinner



To purchase tickets, click here.

City of Vallejo Budget Survey

Through the city of Vallejo's annual budget, the City Council identifies the revenues that the city will receive and allocates those revenues to city departments to provide public services. The annual budget covers a "fiscal year" that runs



from July 1st through June 30th of the following year.

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

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

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

To take the survey, click here.

Nebraska Street improvements



PEDESTRIAN & TRAFFIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ON NEBRASKA St. and amador St. Fronting Vallejo High School

WORK TO BEGIN MARCH 24 & END APRIL 4

City Maintenance will be installing the following:

- 1. 'Speed Humps Ahead' signs at both ends of Nebraska Street.
- 2. Three sets of speed cushions along Nebraska Street.
- 3. Three sets of 'State Law Yield To Pedestrians Within Crosswalk' signs on the centerline of each existing yellow ladder crosswalk.

This serves as the initial step to calm traffic on Nebraska Street. Please pass the word to parents, staff, and the surrounding neighborhood.

During the installation of the traffic calming devices, temporary control will be in place and for the public traveling through to expect delays.

CalAIM Grant Program Hosted by Partnership HealthPlan

Utilizing CalAIM Incentive Payment Program (IPP) funding, Partnership has developed 2025-2026 CalAIM grants to invest in Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports (CS) providers.

Grants are open until Friday, May 16 to all ECM and CS providers in Partnership's 24 counties. Apply here.

2025 Veteran Home Rehab Applications deadline on April 30



From a Rebuilding Together Solano County press release:

Rebuilding Together Solano County provides our home rehabilitation services to veteran and surviving spouses of veterans, seniors

and disabled homeowners residing in Solano County. Our goal is to provide a safe and healthy living environment for low-income veteran homeowners and community facilities.

Our services are provided <u>free</u> to qualified and selected homeowners. Do you know of someone, or do you qualify yourself for our home rehabilitation program?

How to apply:

- 1. Complete Veteran / Military 2025 Homeowner Application
- By 04/30/25 Mail the completed Application and all supporting documentation to RTSC, PO Box 5996, Vallejo, CA 94591.

Contact Rebuilding Together Solano County at: **Ehoffman.rtsc@gmail.com** for further information.

Qualifications Required:

- One or more household members must qualify as Military (Active, honorably discharged, retired or a surviving spouse of military)
- Own and live in a single family residence located within Solano County. Home to be stick-built;
- The following items must be paid current:
 - 1) Mortgage(s)
 - o 2) Property Taxes

- 3) Homeowner's Insurance;
- Potential homeowners cannot own other property or units unless located on the property of the primary residence;
- Household Income must fall below the low-income guidelines for Solano County (less than 80% of Area Median Income for 2024-2025)

•	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person
L						
,	\$70,450	\$80,500	\$90,550	\$100,650	\$108,700	\$116,750

For further details,

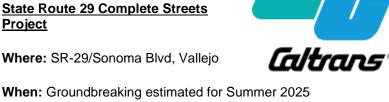
visit www.RebuildingTogetherSolanoCounty.org.

Caltrans Solano County Newsletter -February 2025

UPDATE ON CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS

Project

Where: SR-29/Sonoma Blvd, Vallejo



Why: Complete Streets projects prioritize the safety of all road users by ensuring that streets are designed for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders. By encouraging active transportation and reducing traffic congestion, these projects help lower environmental impact and improve community livability and economic growth by creating attractive, accessible, and sustainable streetscapes.

This past September, Governor Newsom signed the Complete Streets bill, S.B. 960 which prioritizes improvements for pedestrians, bike riders, and public transit users. Construction is slated to begin in Summer 2025.

Resilient SR37

Where: SR-37 between Mare Island and Sears Point

When: Construction slated to begin in 2026.

Why: State Route 37 is an important regional connection linking the north, east and west SF Bay Region following along the northern shore of San Pablo Bay. This 21-mile long roadway from US 101 to

I-80 connects job markets and housing within Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano counties.

The future of the State Route 37 Corridor requires finding solutions to traffic congestion, periodic flooding, and rising sea levels. But it will also require balancing transportation needs with protecting and enhancing sensitive marshland habitats. Planning a long-term solution presents an opportunity to provide bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and carpool options for all travelers, and enhance the quality of life for residents and build stronger local and regional economy for all. Caltrans is working with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Transportation Authority of Marin, Sonoma County Transportation Authority, Solano Transportation Authority, and Napa Valley Transportation Authority to develop a more resilient corridor.

Fairground Diamond Interchange Project

Where: SR-37/Fairgrounds Drive in Vallejo

When: December 2025

Why: Caltrans and the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) are partnering to alleviate current and future traffic congestion and enhance safety for all transportation modes, including pedestrians, bicycles, and scooters at this important intersection in Vallejo. The divergent diamond improves mobility equity and provides better access to major attractions such as Six Flags, upcoming Solano development, and local and regional bus services. These improvements will benefit commuters traveling to Sacramento, the San Francisco Bay Area, Napa County, and all within the city of Vallejo.

Caltrans and STA broke ground on the divergent diamond project in November 2024. Construction is slated to kick off in March 2025.

Westbound Truck Scale Project

Where: Interstate 80 in Cordelia

When: Groundbreaking estimated for Spring 2025.

Why: This project will focus on upgrading the outdated Cordelia Truck Scales along Westbound I-80, originally built in 1958. The current facility leads to traffic backups. The new truck scales will feature improved access ramps and modern equipment to inspect trucks more efficiently, enhancing safety and ensuring smoother traffic flow 24/7.

Although construction of the new westbound truck scale is still well down the road, tree work recently began in the general area in preparation of more work to come

Extended 79-hour closure



From a Caltrans press release:

Caltrans is alerting motorists that this weekend's extended connector closure for the ongoing Yolo Interstate 80 (I-80) and U.S. Highway 50 (US-50) Pavement Rehabilitation Project has been postponed because of the weather

forecast for rain and cold temperatures. The work has been rescheduled for the following weekend.

Construction work will include a full closure of eastbound US-50 after crossing the eastbound I-80 Yolo Causeway from Davis in Yolo County. Caltrans urges motorists to plan for additional travel time.

YOLO I-80 to US-50 CLOSURE:

• 9 p.m. Friday, March 14 to 5 a.m. Tuesday, March 18

DETOUR:

 Local traffic heading to West Sacramento can use Enterprise Boulevard (EXIT 81) or continue to eastbound I-80 and use Reed Avenue (EXIT 83).

(See detour map)

The Yolo Causeway bicycle path also is scheduled to be closed next week for repair work.

YOLO CAUSEWAY BICYCLE PATH CLOSURE:

 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 12 through 6 a.m. Friday, March 14

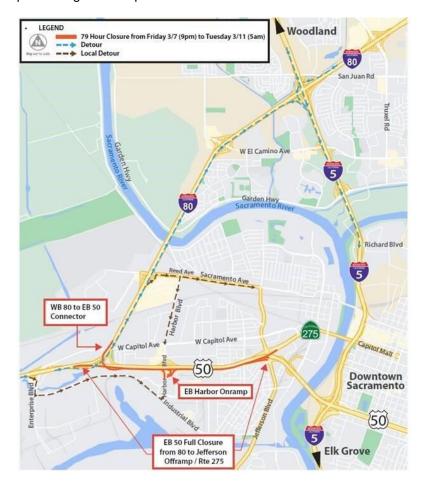
The work zone is from just west of the Yolo Causeway along I-80 and US-50 in West Sacramento. The speed limit has been reduced to 55 miles per hour 24/7 for the safety of workers and motorists. Work is scheduled to begin as listed but is subject to change due to traffic incidents, weather conditions, availability of equipment and/or materials, and construction-related issues.

The extended lane closures will help to minimize the duration of the work and improve workers' safety.

This \$280 million project includes \$47 million from Senate Bill (SB 1), the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017. SB 1 provides \$5 billion in transportation funding annually, shared equally between state and local agencies. Road projects progress through

construction phases more quickly based on the availability of SB 1 funds, including projects partially funded by SB 1. To view the latest news and information on state and federal infrastructure investments, visit RebuildingCA.ca.gov, which contains data on state and federal funding.

Caltrans District 3 is responsible for maintaining and operating 4,385 lane miles in 11 Sacramento Valley and Northern Sierra counties. Caltrans reminds motorists to "Be Work Zone Alert" and slow in construction zones for the safety of travelers and crews performing these improvements.



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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.

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

Digital Literacy Classes

DIGITAL LITERACY CLASSES



Solano Gleaning Initiative



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

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

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

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

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 8-passenger 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.

Solano County jobs

Job Posting Opened	
03/06/2025	
03/06/2025	
03/07/2025	

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 Analys 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>.

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 here.

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

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

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

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

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



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 available</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 9th 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

JFK Library March Events Calendar



JFK Library March Events Calendar

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.

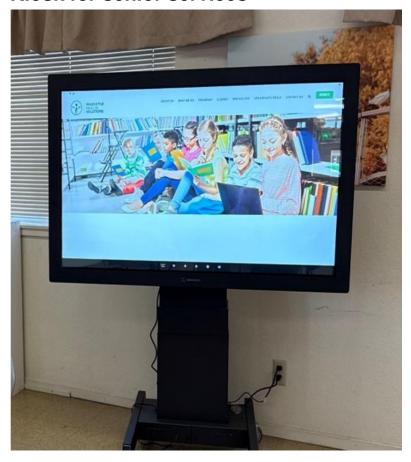
The winter shelter will be filled on a first come, first served basis each night with a limited capacity of ten. Individuals needing shelter must be able to independently manage activities of daily living and

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.

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.

March calendar for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall



The March calendar of events for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall:

March 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

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

Upcoming events in Solano County

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:

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:

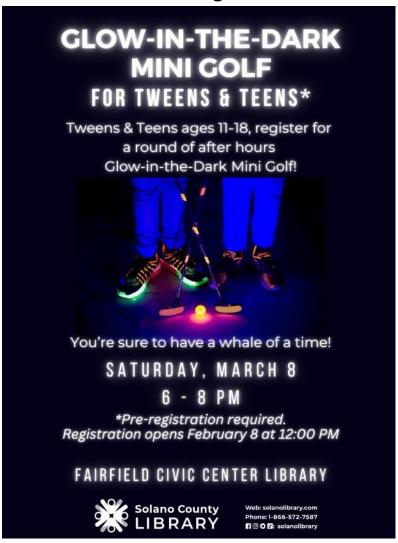
- Check-in at 12:30 p.m. at Benicia Main Street, 90 First Street to receive your tasting glass, map and wristband.
- Beer tasting begins at 1 p.m.
- A map of tasting locations, wristband and plastic glass will be provided at check-in.
- Each ticket holder MUST be present and must show ID at check-in.
- 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.

Teen Anime Cafe



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.

Bay Trail-Vine Trail ribbon cutting at Vallejo Ferry Terminal



Free compost giveaway



E-waste event at the Solano County Fairgrounds



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 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:

- Connect with Trailblazers: Engage with accomplished women leaders who will share their stories, offer career guidance, and inspire the next generation of changemakers.
- Gain Valuable Insights: Learn about diverse career opportunities through interactive discussions and actionable advice tailored to help you succeed.
- 3. **Step Inside the Legal World:** Experience a courtroom tour to gain a firsthand understanding of the legal system and how it shapes our communities.

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

To Register, scan the QR code above.

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

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.

Events I attended this week

Saturday, March 1, I attended the shrimp/crab feed fundraiser held at the main campus of the Solano Community College. The money raised is for scholarships for our students. The entire common was full; I would guess at least 500 people were served. It was fun to see people, I usual just see at this event. A good time was had by all. A shout out to Eileen. Great job.

Sunday, March 2, I attended two events. The first event was a fundraiser held at Baxters in Benicia. The money raised is to help fund the event called Fiestas Primavera "Celebrating Diversity." The party will be April 5, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Benicia City (Gazebo) Park.

My second event was held at St. Peter's Chapel on Mare Island. The topic World War 2 and the Enigma machine. The speaker was Ralph Simpson. He runs the Cipher History Museum. Contact him at Ralph@CiperHistory.com. He owns an Enigma machine. All participants had a chance to see it. He had a wonderful power point to explain how the machine work. He had pictures of the Nazi's using it. He spoke for two hours. His knowledge, research, and background with computers kept the program moving. He was so interesting. The time just flew. If you can ever see him, please do.

Tuesday, March 4, I attended the Benicia City Council Meeting. The main room and overflow room was packed. The main issue was the Industrial Safety Ordinance.

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

The crab and shrimp feed fundraiser held at the main campus of the Solano Community College on Saturday, March 1. Photo: Seth 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.