

SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER

March 28, 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



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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

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 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."

The 6888th Central Postal Battalion (WWII)



n the mid-1940s, under the valiant leadership of trailblazer Lt. Col. Charity Adams Earley, 855 Black women comprised World War II's first and only Women's Army Corps unit of color. The unit, stationed in Birmingham, England, Rouen, France and Paris, sorted through 17 million pieces of backlogged mail. They were given six months to complete the backlog but finished in three months, ultimately delivering mail to more than 7 million soldiers. Despite adversity, racism and sexism, including living in segregated housing that lacked proper light and heat, the unit remarkably boosted morale while guided by Adams, who, at age 26, served as the highest-ranking Black woman officer during World War II.

(707) 784-8960

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

Ruth Elizabeth Wright



Ruth Wright was among the incredible women of the "Six Triple Eight." A descendant of slaves and the daughter of a WWI veteran, she became an activist through her life experiences, growing up and dealing with racial and gender discrimination. After her discharge from the service, she assisted community service projects and championed volunteerism, she was an activist at heart who also fought for women's rights. After her retirement, she notably obtained a degree from Antioch College at the age of 59. One of her lessons

to her children was "Educate yourself to be better prepared for anything that comes before you," Her daughter, Sterling Write said of her mother, "These lessons she passed down to her children and they have done the same for their children. You have to be strong, and you have to be educated."

It must be noted again that the bravery, courage, perseverance and patriotism of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, commonly known as the "Six Triple Eight," takes on deeper resonance and significance today, as their contribution to the WWII war effort in Europe has been scrubbed from the archives due to the abolishment of DEI mandated from the 47th President's administration. We will never forget our history and what it took to change laws that promoted justice and equality. Thank you to the women of the Six Triple Eight!

Information this week

Schedule changes on most routes starting Monday, April 7



A message from the Water Emergency Transportation Authority/San Francisco Bay Ferry:

Starting Monday, April 7, schedule changes on most San Francisco Bay Ferry routes will take effect. These changes will improve afternoon scheduling gaps, improve trip spacing, and increase system reliability.

Change highlights:

- Departure time adjustments between 5-10 minutes for afternoon trips across most routes
- New mid-day trips on the Alameda Seaplane route
- More weekend service on the Richmond route
- Temporary discontinuation of Pier 41 Short Hop
- Later weekday evening departures from S.F. on the Oakland & Alameda and Alameda Seaplane routes

Check out the details on our <u>schedule change</u> page and sign up for Bay Alerts for real-time service notifications.

Share Your Thoughts on Plan Bay Area 2050+ Implementation Priorities

Following the adoption of the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Final Blueprint in January 2025, staff from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission



(MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) are drafting near-term implementation actions that will advance Plan Bay Area 2050+ strategies (including recommendations from the parallel Transit 2050+ effort) through the year 2030.

These preliminary action ideas are largely compiled from brainstorming sessions held with partners and stakeholders last year and require further refinement between now and this summer. Staff provided an <u>update to the MTC Policy Advisory Council</u> at their February 2025 meeting laying out a timeline for developing Plan Bay Area 2050+ implementation actions, including opportunities for further engagement.

To that end, we invite you to participate in a comprehensive survey to help propose and prioritize preliminary draft implementation actions for Plan Bay Area 2050+. This survey and associated feedback will inform the Draft Implementation Plan, which will be released for public comment along with the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report this summer. Following public comment, additional feedback will be integrated prior to Final Plan adoption in early 2026.

Your early-stage input will shape the Implementation Plan so that it reflects partner priorities from across the region. Your unique subject matter expertise will be crucial to developing an ambitious yet achievable Implementation Plan so we can effectively advance the long-range plan's vision over the next several years.

What to Know Before You Take the Survey

The survey offers a "choose-your-own-adventure" approach to providing input on any and all of the four plan elements — Transportation, Housing, Economy and Environment. If you plan to provide input on more than a few strategies, be sure to set aside sufficient time to complete the survey.

To help contextualize the questions in the survey, staff have prepared a short <u>explainer video</u>. Links to relevant reference documents are included to provide further context where appropriate.

Complete the Survey.

The survey will remain open until Monday, April 7.

Office Hours

If you have additional comments or questions about Plan Bay Area 2050+ implementation, you can schedule a 30-minute meeting with element-specific MTC/ABAG staff using the links below. We encourage partner agencies and local jurisdictions who are leading or supporting complementary initiatives to use this time to share relevant actions that could inform our work.

<u>Transportation – Transit</u> (This includes <u>Transit 2050+</u>)

Transportation - Non-Transit

Housing

Economy

Environment

Questions

For questions about the survey or implementation, please contact Michael Germeraad at mgermeraad@bayareametro.gov.

56-Hour Closures scheduled to begin in March for Rio Vista Bridge



From a Caltrans press release:

Caltrans is advising motorists of six scheduled weekend closures of the Rio Vista Bridge (Helen Madere

Memorial Bridge) on State Route 12 (SR 12) for ongoing repairs.

This \$27.2 million project is funded through the Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Program and will require multiple 56-hour weekend closures for the work to be completed because of the limited width of the bridge to allow for heavy equipment access.

The project is making necessary mechanical repairs, replacing the movable deck span and replacing bridge rails.

During the weekend closures that are scheduled between March and June, the contractor will replace the movable span bridge deck concrete, and 60 steel stringers needed to extend the service life of the bridge.

Due to the limited width of the exiting bridge deck, 56-hour weekend bridge closures are necessary to facilitate safe access to the work for contractor and Caltrans personnel.

The 56-hour weekend bridge closure schedule will lessen total project workdays and help avoid the wait times at peak commute hours during the week.

Motorists could encounter additional travel times of up to two hours using detours from Rio Vista to Sacramento County on SR 12 across the Sacramento River. Please allow for extra travel time to reach your destination, especially for scheduled appointments and work schedules.

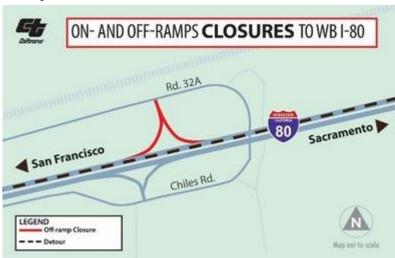
CLOSURE DATES:

- 1st: 9 p.m. Friday 3/28 5 a.m. Monday 3/31
- 2nd: 9 p.m. Friday 4/11 5 a.m. Monday 4/14
- 3rd: 9 p.m. Friday 4/25 5 a.m. Monday 4/28
- 4th: 9 p.m. Friday 5/09 5 a.m. Monday 5/12
- 5th: 9 p.m. Friday 6/06 5 a.m. Monday 6/09
- 6th: 9 p.m. Friday 6/20 5 a.m. Monday 6/23

Schedules are subject to change due to weather conditions, equipment or material availability, or other unexpected events.

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.

Yolo County Westbound Interstate 80 ramps scheduled for closure



Caltrans is alerting motorists of an upcoming closure for the ongoing Yolo Interstate 80 (I-80) and U.S. Highway 50 (US 50) Pavement Rehabilitation Project.

The Chiles Road on- and off ramps for westbound I-80 will be closed for an extended period to complete pavement and striping work for both ramps.

Caltrans urges motorists to plan for additional travel time.

CLOSURE:

- Chiles Road on-ramp (County Road 32A) to westbound I 80 from 9 p.m. Tuesday, 3/25 through 5 a.m. Wednesday, 4/9 (15 days)
- Chiles Road off-ramp (EXIT 78) from westbound I 80 from 9 p.m. Friday, 3/28 through 5 a.m. Monday, 4/7 (10 days)

DETOUR:

 Westbound I 80 motorists can use Mace Boulevard (EXIT 75) as an alternate entrance and exit for I 80 (see maps)

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.

Help Shape How Millions in Community Funds Are Spent



The Air District is preparing to distribute over \$124 million in funding to support local communities overburdened by air pollution — and they need your input!

This funding comes from penalties collected from industry

and businesses that violate Air District regulations. Your feedback will help shape how these funds are used to reduce air pollution and improve health outcomes in your community. The Air District want to hear from you about:

- Community priorities and needs
- The types of projects that should be funded (e.g., research, education, infrastructure)
- How funds should be distributed
- The best ways for us to communicate with you

Take the Survey or join a live workshop on **Tuesday, April 8**, **from 5 to 6 p.m., (via Zoom)** where officials will review the survey and answer questions. The survey can be found here.

Crews clear major rockslide early, reopening key route into Yosemite

Construction crews working all night have made faster-thanexpected progress clearing a major rockslide that closed one of the primary routes into Yosemite National Park for more than a week.

Hundreds of tons of rocks <u>crashed down March 17 across both</u> <u>lanes of state Highway 140</u>, a scenic winding route along the Merced River between the town of Mariposa and Yosemite's Arch Rock entrance, just as the spring travel season was beginning to ramp up. Highway 140 is one of the two main routes into Yosemite for most Northern Californians. The other is Highway 120 through Groveland.

To continue reading, click here.

Public meetings

CARE Act Town Hall



To register, click here.

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.

Are you interested in switching to an electric induction stove from gas? Here's everything you need to know about the newer induction electric stoves.

To view the episode, click here.

ASL Storytime



On Saturday, March 29 at 11:30 a.m., come enjoy an interactive storytelling experience in American Sign Language (ASL) at the **Benicia Public Library**, 150 East L Street. A skilled ASL storyteller will bring stories to life with expressive signing, engaging visuals, and lots of fun! All children and families are welcomewhether you're fluent in ASL or just starting to learn!

Enhance Your Scenarios with Fiction Writing Tools

On Saturday, March 29, from 1 to 4 p.m., Benicia Literary Arts will sponsor "Enhance Your Scenarios with Fiction Writing Tools," a hands-on workshop offered by noted fiction writer and creativity coach, Beth Barany!

Writers will learn to hone their craft with friendly, practical advice in this class to be held in the **Undercroft** Room at St. Paul's Church, 120 East J Street, in Benicia.



This workshop will help you bring your characters alive through action, dialogue, inner thoughts and feelings. When you discover how to craft scenarios that feel authentic and engaging, you will write in a way that is personally meaningful to your readers.

Targeted activities will teach you how to create dynamic scenes that keep readers turning pages.

To register, click here.

Note that Benicia Literary Arts members receive a \$10 discount off the regular \$45 price. Classroom space is limited, so sign up today!

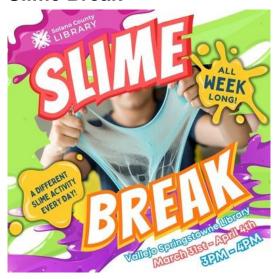
Beth Barany (https://writersfunzone.com/blog/) is an Oakland-based, award-winning novelist, international writing teacher, podcaster, and certified creativity coach for writers. She has also written books to help writers, including Plan Your Novel Like a Pro, co-written with her husband, thriller writer Ezra Barany.

Puzzle & Board Game Exchange



The last swap was so good the Benicia Public Library is doing it again! They will be hosting a Puzzle & Board Game Exchange on Saturday, March 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the library, located at 150 E L Street. If you have puzzles and/or games to donate but can't make the event, the library will accept those kinds of donations starting March 23.

Slime Break



Get ready and race to the Vallejo Springstowne Library for Slime Break! Join the library during the week of March 31 to April 4, as they make a different slime every day. Glow in the dark! Colorchanging! Magnetic! It's time to get slimy!

The Vallejo Springstowne Library is located at 1003 Oakwood Avenue.

Braille Storytime Kits



The Solano County Library offers Braille Storytime Kits, a hands-on way for children who are visually impaired to enjoy stories. Each kit

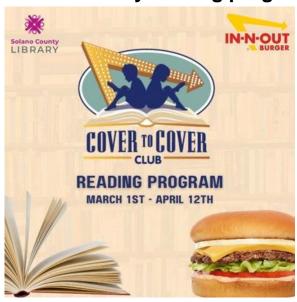
features songs, tactile play, movement, listening, and word games to bring picture books to life.

What's inside:

- ✓ 2 braille/English picture books
- Engaging activities
- ✓ Guides in braille & English
- ✓ Link to online resources

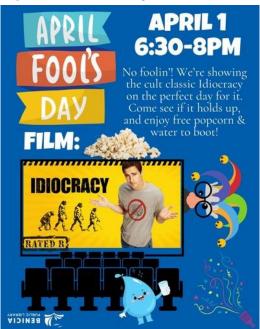
Borrow with your library card for up to 3 weeks! To view the collection, click <u>here</u>.

Solano County reading program



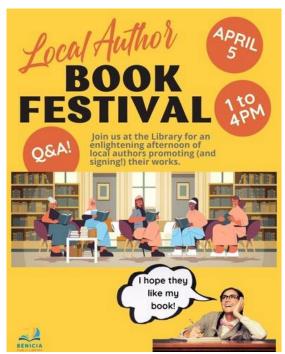
It's back! Stop by your local Solano County Library and sign up for In-N-Out's Cover to Cover Reading program. Kids ages 4-12 can earn one hamburger or cheeseburger for every 5 books or 300 pages they read! Each child may earn up to 3 burgers during the program.

April Fool's Day Film



Join the Benicia Library this coming Tuesday, April 1 (April Fool's Day!) at 6:30 p.m. for a showing of Idiocracy. Popcorn, and water will be provided. The library is located at 150 East L Street.

Book Festival



Did you know that Benicia boasts some local authors? Or that you could borrow many of their titles from the Benicia Public Library?

Most exciting of all, did you know that more than 40 (!!) of them will be at the library for the first Local Author Book Festival? Now you do. See you **Saturday, April 5, from 1 to 4 p.m. 150 East L Street.**

30th Annual Library Literacy Celebration



Updates from around Solano County Congregate Meal program



To view the April menu, click here.

To reserve a warm meal at any of the seven (7) sites, clients can:

- 1. Call or text: 707 | 684-4376
- 2. Email the general email: info@innovativehealths.com
- Go to one of the sites and reserve onsite with an IHS site host

Reservations are required at least two (2) days in advance. If you have a large group (4+) attending, please give at least one (1) week notice.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) CHAPTER 21 Scholarship Contest



Coffee with Community Development Department



Last January and February, many in the Benicia community joined us to discuss your comments, ideas and feedback about the city of Benicia's permit services. Those conversations helped the city to understand your needs and sparked new ideas about how to serve

you. It's been just over a year since the last meet up, let's talk about progress, plans and opportunities moving forward!

On April 1, the Community Development Department will host an informal coffee meeting to continue the conversation and share major updates including:

- Launch of new express permit options in 2024
- Simpler application submittal steps
- Upcoming improvements to the special inspections process
- Changes in engineering review on private property including erosion and sediment control inspections
- Updated information, including a completely new Building Safety Division webpage
- New "how to" handouts and videos (coming soon!) for how to choose your permit type, apply for a permit and upload an attachment
- Completion of new Permit Conferencing Space, a dedicated area to work with our applicants and design community for technical support, records requests, coordination meetings and more

Meeting Location: Commission Room of Benicia City Hall, 250 East L Street (west entrance closest to the Police Department).

Meeting Date/Time: April 1 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Benicia Unified School District new student enrollment



Benicia Unified School District invites you to enroll for next school year. New student enrollment for 2025-2026 begins on February 1 of each school year for grade levels TK – 12 and continues throughout the school year.

Students who turn 4 by September 1, 2025, are eligible for TK in the 2025-26 school year. Students who turn 5 by September 1, 2025, are eligible for kindergarten in the 2025-26 school year.

Enrollment is for Benicia residents only. The new student enrollment process involves a number of steps and requires that various documents be presented.

Please visit BeniciaUnified.org/enrollment for more information.

CAL FIRE Hazard Severity Zone update



In Spring 2024, CAL FIRE released updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps with areas in the state identified as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones based on consistent statewide criteria and based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail in those areas. As part of this requirement, CAL FIRE has made recommendations for Local Responsibility Areas ("LRA"), which include incorporated cities such as Benicia, urban regions, agricultural lands, and portions of the desert where the local government is responsible for wildfire protection.

Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps evaluate "hazard," not "risk". They are like flood zone maps, where lands are described in terms of the probability level of a particular area being inundated by floodwaters, and not specifically prescriptive of impacts. "Hazard" is based on the physical conditions that create a likelihood and expected fire behavior over a 30 to 50-year period without considering mitigation measures such as home hardening, recent wildfire, or fuel reduction efforts. "Risk" is the potential damage a fire can do to the area under existing conditions, accounting for any modifications such as fuel reduction projects, defensible space, and ignition resistant building construction.

The city of Benicia **may**, at its discretion, include areas within its jurisdiction, not identified as moderate and high fire hazard severity zones by the State Fire Marshal, as moderate and high fire hazard severity zones, respectively. The city of Benicia **may not** decrease the level of fire hazard severity zone as identified by the State Fire Marshal for any area within the town.

To submit public comment related to the adoption of fire hazard severity zones in Benicia, visit EngageBenicia.com. Alternatively, you can email your comments to Division Chief Carl Littorno at CLittorno@ci.benicia.ca.us.

Fairfield BUILD Launches April 22



The city of Fairfield is excited to introduce Fairfield BUILD (Building, Utilities, Inspections, Land & Development), a new online permitting system launching April 22.

This upgraded platform will replace the outdated TRAKIT System and provide a transparent, accessible, and user-friendly experience for residents, businesses, and the building community.

With 24/7 online access, users will be able to apply for permits, schedule inspections, and track project progress in real-time from any device.

The system also features automated workflows to expedite processing and secure online payment integration for a seamless experience.

To ensure a smooth transition, TRAKiT will go offline on April 10 at 5 p.m., and permitting and plan review services will be limited for six business days while records are transferred. To prepare, the Planning Services counter will be closed on Mondays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Building Permitting will be closed on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. through April 22.

Fairfield BUILD will be available to the public at 10 a.m. on April 22. For more information and updates, click <u>here</u>.

Benicia Parkinson's Community Awareness Rally



Listen to our Keynote speaker talk about Precision, Partnering & Personalized Care. Dr. Khandhar will be joined by experts in nutrition, mental health and joy, connection and discovery. Then visit and connect with various pharmaceutical companies and organizations who provide Bay Area communities with information on solutions and resources that will help in a family's Parkinson's journey.





BILL CAWLEY
MEMORIAL WALK
BENICIA CITY PARK,
FIRST & K ST.
CHECK-IN STARTS
AT 8:00 AM



DR. SUKETU KHANDHAR CHIEF OF NEUROLOGY & MEDICAL DIRECTOR FOR MOVEMENT DISORDERS PROGRAM KAISER PERMANENTE, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

BENICIA VETERANS HALL, 1150 FIRST ST. 9:30am-1pm Hall opens at 9:00am

APRIL 12, 2025



REGISTER ONLINE @ www.beniciaparkinsons.support Register by 3/21/2025 for a customized T-shirt

Sponsored by the Benicia Lions Club, Benicia Kiwanis Club, Benicia Community Foundation, Valero & Biagi Bros. Hosted by the Benicia Parkinson's Support Group

For more information, and/or to register, click here.

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.

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

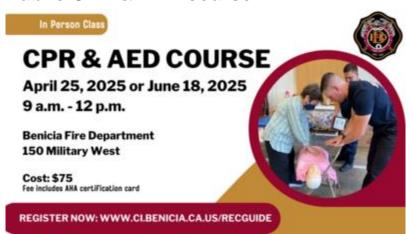
City Maintenance will be installing the following:

- 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.

Public CPR & AED course



The Benicia Fire Department is offering American Heart Association (AHA) HeartSaver CPR & AED courses on April 25 and June 18 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Fire Station 11, 150 Military West.

The fee is \$75, and it includes your AHA CPR certification card and workbook.

There are limited spots available, register today. This course is an instructor-led course that teaches adult and child CPR and AED use, infant CPR, and how to relieve choking in adults, children, and infants. Upon successful completion of the course, students receive a course completion card, valid for two years. If needed, please contact your employer prior to enrollment to ensure that you are selecting the correct course.

To register, click here.

Molly's Angels



Since 1999, Molly's Angels has been dedicated to supporting Napa Valley seniors through free services like medical

transportation, care calls, and handmade cards—fostering connection and well-being in the community.

Thanks to support from the Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging, the Molly Cares friendly calling program has expanded to Solano County. This no-cost program pairs local seniors with volunteer callers for weekly check-in calls, offering companionship, and when needed, connecting those in need of vital resources with services in their community.

Solano residents can participate in Molly Cares in two ways: as a volunteer caller, connecting with seniors through weekly phone calls or as a participant, receiving calls and enjoying friendly conversation and support.

For more information, visit their website or call (707) 224-8971.

Homeacres Home Rehab Program



Program

The Homeacres Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program aims to improve housing conditions, safety, code compliance, and revitalize the community. Solano County is offering financial assistance to help eligible homeowners repair and improve their homes.

Is Your Home in Need of Repairs?
We understand that keeping up with repairs can be tough, especially for those on a tight budget. That's why Solano County is excited to introduce a program that helps homeowners like you make essential home repairs and improvements.

Financial Assistance

- Low-Interest Loans for up to \$80,000 with a 30-year term and a unique deferred payment option. Make NO monthly payments through-out the entire loan period!
- Emergency Repair Grants: Only offered in limited cases.
- Funds are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Eligibility

- Must be the homeowner and live on the property needing repairs.
- Open to low-to moderate-income residents of unincorporated Homeacres Neighborhood (see map on reverse)

Approved Use of Funds

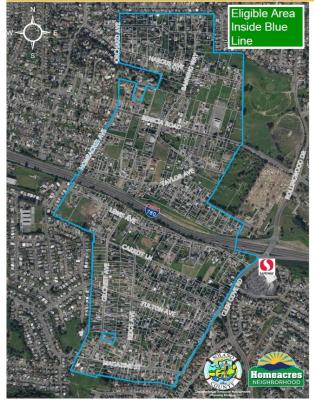
- · Health & safety repairs & upgrades
- Roof repair or replacement
- Foundation repair (cracks, uneven floors)
- Electrical repairs, heat-pumps, solar installation
- Window upgrades & attic insulation

Application and Information



Management 675 Texas Street, Suite 5500 Fairfield, CA 94533

(707) 784-6765 SolanoCounty.com/Homeacres HomeRehab@SolanoCounty.com



Spring 2025 Vaccine Clinics Hosted by Solano Public Health

FREE VACCINES IN SOLANO, CA

First come, first served. While supplies last.

Date Time		Location	Vaccines	
Thursday, March 27, 2025	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Grange Middle School (Gymnasium) 1975 Blossom Ave, Fairfield, CA 94533	Flu 6 months+ Tdap* 10 years+ COVID-19* 6 months+	
Thursday, April 24, 2025	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Grange Middle School (Gymnasium) 1975 Blossom Ave, Fairfield, CA 94533	Flu 6 months+ Tdap* 10 years+ COVID-19* 6 months+	
Thursday, May 15, 2025	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Grange Middle School (Gymnasium) 1975 Blossom Ave, Fairfield, CA 94533	Flu 6 months+ Tdap* 10 years+ COVID-19* 6 months+	
Thursday, May 22, 2025	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Solano County Health & Social Services Multipurpose Room 2101 Courage Dr, Fairfield, CA 94533	Kindergarten Vaccines* Flu 6 months+ Tdap* 10 years+ COVID-19* 6 months+	
Thursday, May 29, 2025	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Solano County Public Health Multipurpose Room 2109 355 Tuolumne St, 2nd Floor Vallejo, CA 94590	Kindergarten Vaccines* Flu 6 months+ Tdap* 10 years+ COVID-19* 6 months+	

These free events target low-income and/or uninsured residents in Solano County. Now is the time for families to get their students vaccines required for school. Flu levels are still high! It's not too late – everyone 6 months and older should get the updated flu vaccine to prevent serious illness and hospitalization.

Vallejo Fire Department addresses CAL FIRE's new Fire Hazard Severity Zones

From a Vallejo Fire Department press release:

The city of Vallejo and Vallejo Fire Department are working together to inform the community about CAL FIRE's updated Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) and the potential impacts on local residents and businesses. These newly



designated zones, developed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), identify areas at elevated risk for wildfires and are an essential tool in wildfire preparedness and mitigation efforts.

The updated Fire Hazard Severity Zones reflect the latest scientific data and fire behavior modeling, considering factors such as vegetation, topography, and climate conditions. These zones play a critical role in guiding community safety measures, fire prevention efforts, and building codes to enhance resilience against wildfires.

"The safety of Vallejo residents is our top priority," said Interim Fire Chief Arthur Gonzales. "By understanding these new Fire Hazard Severity Zones, we can take proactive steps to reduce fire risk and better prepare for potential wildfire threats."

Fortunately, Vallejo has only a few areas designated within the moderate severity zones, with no areas classified as high or very high fire hazard severity. This means that the city's current defensible space will not be changed, and no changes will be required to existing building codes. While some precautions remain necessary, Vallejo is at lower wildfire risk compared to other parts of the state.

Residents and business owners are encouraged to review the updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps available on CAL FIRE's website: Cal Fire Statewide Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Additionally, the city of Vallejo has published a page focused specifically on the updated hazard maps specific to our area: <u>Vallejo Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Maps</u>. By familiarizing themselves with their property's designation, community members can take necessary precautions such as defensible space improvements, home hardening, and emergency preparedness planning.

"The City of Vallejo is committed to supporting our residents in navigating these updates and implementing best practices for wildfire safety," said City Manager Andrew Murray. "We encourage everyone to stay informed and take advantage of available resources to protect their homes and families."

The Vallejo Fire Department and City of Vallejo urge residents to participate in upcoming community meetings and preparedness workshops to learn more about the FHSZ updates and how they can enhance their fire resilience.

Public comments addressing the updated local responsibility area fire hazard maps can be submitted via the <u>Vallejo Local</u> Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Map page.

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)
 - 2) Property Taxes
 - o 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
\$70,450	\$80,500	\$90,550	\$100,650	\$108,700	\$116,750

For further details, visit www.RebuildingTogetherSolanoCounty.org.

Bike Bell Program at Rockville Park



A message from the city of Fairfield:

In a trial program to improve safety at Rockville Hills Regional Park, the city of Fairfield has installed a Borrow-A-Bell kiosk at the park's main entrance. The new kiosk will encourage mountain bikers to use the bells to enhance safety and enjoyment for all trail users.

The use of bells alerts all park users of an approaching cyclist, especially at or near blind corners and can help prevent accidents. The idea is simple, take a bell from the kiosk, attach it to the bike with its Velcro strips, use it while riding in the park, and return it to the kiosk when leaving.

The bike bell program has been used with great success in other nearby cities and regional parks including East Bay Regional Parks, Crockett Hills Regional Park, and Skyline Wilderness Park in Napa.

The city of Fairfield wants to improve overall safety and encourage courtesy and sharing of the trails by all users.

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



and

Fairfield Poet Laureate Emerita, Suzanne Bruce



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

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

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

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

Please have students send poems to Suzanne Bruce at fairfieldpoetlaureate.emerita@gmail.com by April 3^{nl} - 5:00pm. *For questions, also email Suzanne

Ekphrastic*

LET YOUR WORDS EMBRACE ART!

An Ekphrastic Event and Opportunity for Poets and Prose Writers

Featuring the Art of Nanette Wylde

Co-hosted by Benicia Literary Arts and the Benicia Poet Laureate Saturday, April 19, 2025 from 5:30 to 7pm at NY2CA Gallery, 617 First Street, Benicia

Poets and short prose writers -here's how to have a "Wylde" time!

- 1) Visit the NY2CA Gallery: Starting Thursday, March 20, and continuing Thursdays through Sundays, noon 5pm, until 5pm on Thursday, April 17, 2025. Poets and writers of short prose (400 words or fewer) can visit the NY2CA Gallery at 617 First Street in Benicia and seek their inspiration.
- 2) Complete the form in the Gallery with your name, email address, and the title of the art you selected to write to.
- 3) The deadline to submit your written ekphrastic prose or poetic inspiration is noon on Friday, April 18, 2025. Remember, the maximum length is 400 words or fewer. Send your finished work in pdf to Becky Bishop White, beckydabish@mail.com, by noon on Friday, April 18.
- 4) Then Celebratel Come to the NY2CA Gallery at 5:30pm on Saturday, April 19, 2025 and participate in the reading!

Questions? Contact Becky Bishop White: beckydabish@amail.com
Note: If you can't make it to the gallery to view the art, photos will be posted online.

Email Becky for the link after March 21.



Arts Benicia



On March 22, Arts Benicia opened their biannual exhibition Next Generation where they will showcase the creative endeavors of the youth of the community, from Kindergarten through High School.

Please join for an Opening Reception of the exhibition on **Sunday**, **March 30**, from 1 to 3 p.m. and for Family Art Day on Sunday, **April 27**, 1 to 3 p.m. Arts Benicia is committed to the next generation of artists stems from their belief that the arts enhance the quality of life in the community and enrich us as individuals. Thank you for also supporting access to arts education for the youth in our community.

On Thursday, March 6, Arts Benicia celebrated the opening of the newest Arts Benicia Presents venue, Compass Real Estate at 615 First Street, Benicia. The inaugural exhibition features the exquisite artwork of Paula Boas, longtime artist member of Arts Benicia. **The exhibition is on view at Compass until May 29.**

The Arts Benicia Gallery is located at 1 Commandant's Lane, Benicia, in the Commanding Officer's Quarters, in the historic Benicia Arsenal.

Gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Visitors are invited to walk throughout the historic mansion built in 1860, an important and interesting part of the town's history. For more information visit https://artsbenicia.org

Arts Benicia also offers art classes for adults and youth, many of which are open to beginners. Consider checking out the new classes listed on the Arts Benicia website. For full listings, please visit https://artsbenicia.org/adult-classes.

Interested in sponsoring a program with Arts Benicia? The support of local businesses and donors is essential to the quality and reach of the Arts Benicia programs. With your sponsorship support, they can continue to offer an engaging, diverse array of programs at low or no cost to the community. To find out more about sponsoring an Arts Benicia exhibition or program, please get in touch by emailing info@artsbenicia.org or visiting https://artsbenicia.org/sponsorship/

Winter Shelter at BayNorth Church of Christ



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

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

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

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

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

Solano Water Institute for teachers – Summer 2025

This field-trip-based workshop highlights the preservation of Solano County open spaces and the region's complex water resources, while providing first-hand



experiential learning that teachers can share with their students back in the classroom.

July 28: Rush Ranch Nature Center, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

July 29: Lake Berryessa Tour, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

July 30: Dunnell Nature Center, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, contact Marianne Butler at marianne.butler@solanorcd.org

Upcoming events in Solano County

Vacaville Farmers' Market



Since 1994 the Vacaville Farmers
Market has been the best place for
locally grown seasonal fruits and
vegetables. The Market offers fun for
the whole family with fresh produce
and other locally- sourced goods along
with food, vendors of homemade
products, music and more! Don't miss

out on the children's education booth with fun activities for the little ones!

It all happens every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and beginning March 1st, the market will be year-round! Located at 558 Main Street at Creekwalk Plaza, in Andrews Park. Admission is free.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day National Vietnam War Veterans Day Saturday, March 29, 2025



ALL Vietnam War-Era Veterans are cordially invited to receive the:



All Vietnam War-Era Veterans are cordially invited to receive the: Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin

from www.VietnamWar50th.com from 11 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 29 at the Vallejo Veterans Memorial Building, 420 Admiral Callaghan Lane.

For more information, contact Nestor Aliga at Nestor.Aliga@comcast.net and/or (707) 853-0062.

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.

Free Career Fair: 2025 NorCal Hiring Event



Connect with top employers and explore exciting career opportunities at the 2025 NorCal Career Fair, on Thursday, April 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Solano Community College, 4000 Suisun Valley Road, 1400 Building, in the city of Fairfield.

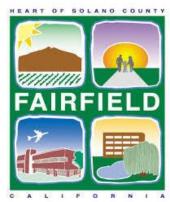
Join the Workforce Development Board of Solano County and Solano Community College for a day of networking and hiring. This free event is your chance to find your next career move. Register here

Spring Egg-Dive-Aganza

Join the city of Fairfield on Saturday, April 12 from 12 to 3 p.m. at the Allan Witt Aquatics Complex (1741 W Texas St, Fairfield) for an egg hunt like never!

Instead of searching on land, you'll be diving in to find eggs in the pool! Enjoy fun games, exciting prizes, and a special visit from Ms. Allie and Mr. Gator!

All attendees must register, and the event is \$15 per person. To register, click here.



Speaker Series: The Magic of the 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.

Will you be Fairfield's next BBQ Master?



Will you be Fairfield's next BBQ Master at the Blues, Brews & BBQ Cook-Off on **Saturday**, **April 19**, **12 to 4 p.m.**?

Enter the chicken or rib categories, or both! One fee covers all entries. Rib entries will automatically be entered in the People's Choice category and juried judging will be based on Kansas City Barbecue Society rules.

Purchasing a VIP ticket will get you a plateful of saucy, flavorful contestant BBQ ribs, two adult beverages (21 and over), and the chance to vote on the best ribs! VIP's will also enjoy prime shaded seats near the band and a luxury restroom.

VIP tickets sold out last year, so get yours early by clicking here.

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

Solano County American Indian Symposium



Join for a captivating Solano Symposium with special guests delving into American Indian topics on history, healing and sustainability organized by Partnership Healthplan of California.

The Solano County American Indian Symposium is tailored to engage with the indigenous community through panel discussions and presentations.

Partnership HealthPlan of California is a non-profit community-based health care organization that contracts with the state to administer Medi-Cal benefits through local care providers to ensure Medi-Cal recipients have access to high-quality comprehensive cost-effective health care.

The symposium will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, April 27, at Touro University California at 1310 Club Drive on Mare Island in the city of Vallejo.

Homeless Outreach Partnership Event on April 30



From the city of Fairfield:

The Homeless Services Division is hosting a Homeless Outreach Partnership Event (HOPE) on Wednesday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Liberty Church, (2641 N Texas St.) in Fairfield.

Volunteers are needed to assist at the event. Resources available for the unhoused will include food, Medi-Cal, Cal-Fresh services, mobile showers, and more! Attendees may also ride the bus to the event for free on April 30. Simply board the Route 3 bus and let the driver know you are attending the HOPE event.

Homeless Services is looking for service providers that can assist with housing, prevention, and support services for the unhoused at the event and are now accepting vendor applications.

Interested parties can request a vendor application from Delaney Dombrowski at ddombrowski@fairfield.ca.gov. The deadline to apply is April 18.

For more information or if you would like to volunteer, please call (707) 428-7679.

Junk in the Trunk



Clean out your garage and make some extra cash at Junk in the Trunk on Saturday, May 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Laurel Creek Community Park, 2986 Guld Drive.

Seller spots: \$30 (2 spaces) | \$55 (3 spaces). Reserve your space now, by clicking here.

Behavioral Health Resource Fair

Mark your calendars! Solano County Behavioral Health is hosting a Resource Fair on Friday, May 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 601 Texas Street, Fairfield.



This outdoor event will bring

together a variety of organizations that are eager to share valuable resources and support with the community. We invite local organizations to participate—it's a great opportunity to connect with the public and showcase your services.

For inquiries or to apply, please contact WRU@solanocounty.gov. Don't wait—the application deadline is April 11.

Maykers Market



From the city of Fairfield:

The city of Fairfield continues to support the local and small businesses by bringing the community together with a spring edition of Maykers Market - Mother's Day Special Edition.

Come join on May 10, from 12 to 5 p.m. in Downtown Fairfield! This event will showcase downtown businesses and feature a vendor market pop-up with local artisans, crafts, baked goods, and more!

Do you have something to sell? Booth prices are low and interested vendors may click **here** no later than April 14.

Events I attended this week

Last Friday, March 21, I had lunch at the Benicia Senior Center. March is Meals on Wheels Month. Lunch is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. You must call several days ahead of time to order your food. It is free for seniors. The meal was wonderful. I had a 4-ounce chicken thigh, rice, carrots and peas, fruit, milk, and cookie (I brought my diet coke). I was full. I met new people. One was Shannon from Molly's Angels. You can read what she wrote in today's newsletter.

Wednesday, March 26, was a busy day. I was very honored to be invited by Eloise Scott to celebrate her 90th birthday. Many of us shared a meal and sang "Happy Birthday" many times.

Another event was attending the Archway Recovery Services, a groundbreaking ceremony. I look forward to the completed project in several years as there will be services such as 10 Detox beds. This will help the county to provide services to implement Prop 1.

I attended the presentation about the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, also known as the Lynching Museum, in Montgomery, Alabama, on Wednesday. What a presentation! It was a humbling experience and something we must never forget. The museum acknowledges the thousands of Black victims of lynching.

Thursday night, March 27, I attended the Glen Cove Association meeting. Topics ranged from policing to the Vallejo school district. Key to help the school district is to improve school attendance.

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

Solano County jobs

Positions	Job Posting Opened		
Paralegal	03/24/2025		

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>.

Newsletter photo

View from the 6th Floor of the County Administration Center in downtown Fairfield. 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.