

July 21, 2023

SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER



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Tony Bennett

This week's newsletter is dedicated to the legendary crooner Tony Bennett who died on Friday. He was 96. Like everyone, I love "I Left My Heart in San Francisco." Tony won 20 Grammys during his time providing the soundtrack to many a romantic evenings for many generations.

Major pavement repair work



[Follow on Twitter](#)

Important Numbers Resources and Dates

District 2 Office

(707) 784-3031

Clerk of the Board & County Administrator's Office

(707) 784-6100

Veterans Services

(707) 784-6590

Health & Social Services

(707) 784-8400

Assessor/Recorder

(707) 784-6200

Resource Management

(707) 784-6765

Registrar of Voters

(707) 784-6675

Tax Collector/Treasurer/County Clerk

(707) 784-7485

Area Agency on Aging



The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has scheduled several projects over the coming weekends which will close sections of freeways in our area.

There are three weekend closures on Eastbound I-80 tentatively scheduled on the weekends of **July 21, August 4, and August 18**. EB I-80 will be closed and traffic detoured beginning at the EB I-80/State Route-4 interchange in Hercules. Closures will start **Fridays at 9pm** and conclude on the following **Mondays at 5am**

A 104-hour full highway closure of westbound I-80 is scheduled on Labor Day weekend starting **Thursday, August 31 at 9pm** and concluding **at 5am on Tuesday, September 5, 2023**. WB I-80 will be closed and traffic detoured beginning at the WB I-80/I-780 interchange in Vallejo.

Motorists traveling eastbound on I-80 will need to exit onto eastbound SR-4 in Hercules and continue on EB SR-4 to Northbound I-680. Motorists can use NB I-680 to reach I-80 in Fairfield or use WB I-780 to access the Benicia and Vallejo areas. Cummings Skyway between SR-4 and I-80 will also be open for motorists heading to the Crockett area.

Motorists traveling westbound on I-80 at I-780 (Curtola Pkwy) will need to exit onto eastbound I-780 in Vallejo and continue on EB I-780 to SB I-680. Motorists can use SB I-680 to reach WB SR-4,

(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

WB SR-24 or WB I-580 to access central and south Bay Area destinations.

If you have a question or want to share a concern about the project, please call the **CC I-80 Pave Project Hotline (510) 286-0319**. Project Webpage: www.cc80pave.com

Vanden and Canon Roads All-Way Stop Begins August 9

The City of Fairfield has been working with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), Capital Corridor Joint Power Authority (CCJPA), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Travis Air Force Base, Solano County, and the City of Vacaville to improve vehicular and railroad safety at the intersection of Vanden Road and Canon Road by installing an All-Way Stop.

The plans have been finalized, and construction is anticipated to start on August 1 and conclude on August 9. Starting on August 9, road users must make a complete stop when traveling North or South Bound on Vanden Road.

Information this week

Need a ride to the doctor?

You can now get a ride to and from your doctor visits at no charge. As a Kaiser Permanente Medicare health plan member, you can get a ride to and from your appointments at no cost. Your plan covers up to 24 one-way trips (50 miles per trip) per calendar year.

To schedule a ride for rideshare, taxi, or private transportation service, call 1-877-930-1477 (TTY 711). You can also schedule online at medicaltrip.net or download the MTM Link Member app. To download the app on your device, visit the App Store (Apple) or Google Play (Android) and search for MTM Link Member App.

For wheelchair van or gurney van transportation service, call 1-833-226-6760.

Request your ride at least 3 business days (Monday through Friday) before your appointment. If you have an urgent last-minute appointment, call as soon as you can.

You can get rides for doctor appointments, medical services such as lab or X-ray, and picking up medications or medical equipment.

Biden administration announces \$39 billion in student debt relief following administrative fixes

The Biden administration announced last week that 804,000 borrowers will have their student debt wiped away, totaling \$39 billion worth of debt, in the coming weeks. To read more, click [here](#).

Bay Area Housing Finance Authority eyes \$10-20 billion general obligation bond in November 2024

The [Bay Area Housing Finance Authority \(BAHFA\)](#) and Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) are eyeing [a potential \\$10 billion to \\$20 billion regional general obligation bond for housing on the 2024 ballot](#). If successful, the money would be used to build and preserve between 40,000 to 80,000 affordable homes across the nine-county region. The law authorizing the bond measure requires that 80 percent of the funds be returned directly to each county and a handful of cities in proportion to their contributions towards the bond.

ABAG staff is developing an expenditure plan, subject to approval by the ABAG Executive Board and BAHFA, for the regionally administered 20 percent of funds. An overview of the statutory framework for the regional housing bond and initial plans for a 2024 measure [are available here](#).

To get more information, sign up for the BAHFA mailing list [here](#). Please contact [Kate Hartley](#), BAHFA's Director, with any questions or comments

CalMatters for Learning

CalMatters for Learning is a free learning hub for library staff, educators and community organizers. Here you'll find teaching resources and unique tools to guide conversations in your communities about quality-of-life issues. The hub is brought to you by the California State Library.

To all teachers, here are free lesson plans to explain government and issues. I hope all teachers are having a nice break. - Monica Brown.

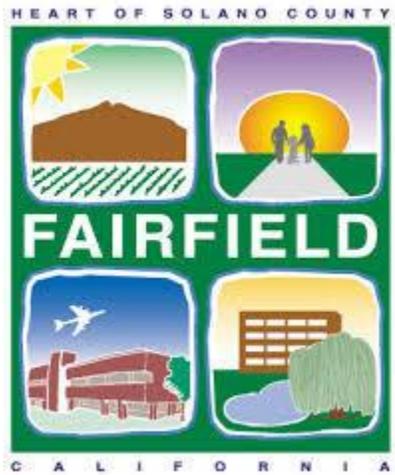
To view the learning hub, click [here](#).

Bay Area drivers may soon get automatic tickets for going 11 mph over speed limit

Drivers may soon get speeding tickets without ever talking to an officer, if a bill gets approved authorizing speed limit cameras. Read more [here](#).

Public notices

CDBG 101 Workshop Aug 10



The City of Fairfield Housing Services Department will be hosting a CDBG 101 program workshop for non-profit organizations on Thursday, August 10, from 2 to 4pm at 1000 Kentucky St., Lakeside Room A. The workshop will provide information about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and upcoming application process.

The CDBG Program exists to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments through expanding economic opportunities, principally for low-to-moderate income persons.

At the workshop, staff will provide an overview of the CDBG Program, guidelines, expectations, and reporting requirements. Attendees will receive detailed information on the current state of the CDBG Program and technical assistance to prepare them to apply for CDBG funding with the City of Fairfield. Registration is encouraged and walk-ins are welcome.

For additional information about the CDBG Program, or to register for the workshop, click [here](#).

Mobile Crisis Services

The Solano Mobile Crisis Response Services program assists individuals who are in acute psychological crisis. They may be unable to care for themselves due to a severe mental illness or are in immediate danger of either harming themselves or others.

The program serves the cities of Fairfield, Suisun City, Vacaville, & Dixon. Mobile Crisis operates Monday through Friday, from 8:30am to 9pm.

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

Applications being accepted for Advisory Council

The Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is accepting applications for its Advisory Council. AAA is a comprehensive and coordinated service system focused on improving the lives of older adults, persons with disabilities, their families, and caregivers.

Its current four-year Area Plan established four priority areas: improving health outcomes; reducing social isolation; raising nutritional awareness and services; and enhancing community-based, long-term services and supports.

Supporting the work of the Napa/Solano AAA is an Advisory Council, comprised of sixteen members, eight from each county. Council members are appointed by the respective Board of Supervisors and are charged with (1) advising the AAA on funding and service priorities, (2) assisting with provider performance reviews, and (3) advocacy. As advocates for older adults, Council members are expected to be informed about key legislation and issues facing the older adult population locally, voice their concerns with elected officials, and inform and gather support from other community members.

The Advisory Council meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 10 am to 12 noon. Meetings alternate monthly between Napa and Fairfield. The monthly time commitment averages 3-5 hours.

Those interested in applying can reach out to Richard White at (615) 513-4063 or email richardjwhite51@gmail.com

Benicia Lyft rides

The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) will pay a portion of your Lyft rides throughout the City of Benicia, and to Springstowne Center in Vallejo. These rides are valid only to specific destinations and between the hours of 6am-9pm for Benicia residents. To qualify



you must be an older adult (65+), a veteran, or ADA eligible. If your pickup or drop-off is outside the specified areas, the discount is not valid. More questions? Call the mobility call center: [1-800-535-6883](tel:1-800-535-6883)

Pediatric vaccine resource for families

Solano County Public Health, First 5 Solano, Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC), Ole Health, La Clinica, Help Me Grow Solano and Child Start have developed and launched a new website for parents and families seeking information about

childhood immunizations. The website, www.SolanoVaxFacts.com, serves as a public resource for information on early childhood immunizations, including facts about vaccines, where to get vaccinated, payment assistance, and more. Community members can also download a vaccine schedule that details the timeline for necessary immunizations for children aged two months through 16 years.

NAMI Solano looking for bilingual volunteer

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Solano is looking for a bilingual, Spanish speaking volunteer for its family programs, to assist with NAMI Family-to-Family facilitator and NAMI Family Support Group facilitator. Volunteer must have a family member with mental illness and is available to attend trainings.



NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental health conditions, including those living with a mental illness and their loved ones.

Contact Nicollete Morales at nicollete@namisolano.org or at (707) 439-5519.

Storytime at Children's Wonderland

The Solano County Library will offer story time each **Thursday from 11 to 11:45 am** at Children's Wonderland, 360 Glenn Street in the city of Vallejo. This is a free program offered to the community. The program runs through October 26.

iPad distribution

Any older adults at risk of social isolation and don't already have an internet connected device and cannot afford to purchase a tablet to connect with family, friends, or telehealth appointments, may be eligible for a free device.

Devices are limited to older adults (60+) or adults with permanent disabilities who are at risk and do not have access to a device. Those interested should contact the Aging and Disability Resource Connection at (707) 200-7116. Callers need to leave a message so an intake coordinator can return the call and administer a brief intake questionnaire to determine if the person is eligible to receive

a device. Devices are reserved for the most at-risk individuals as numbers are limited.

Solano Water Institute for teachers

Local teachers are invited to join an all-day field trip excursion as part of the upcoming Solano Water Institute (SI). This unique teacher opportunity was created by Solano Resource Conservation District to provide teachers with research-proven strategies and resources for water education. SI is a 4-day professional development experience that will enhance teachers' understanding of Solano County's water resources and guide them on field trip-based workshops in our county's open spaces.

Field trips take place on August 2 at 8am at Rush Ranch Open Space and on August 3 at Lake Berryessa. Participants will gather at 7:45am Markley Cove's Lake Berryessa Boat and Jet Ski Rental. Each day includes lunch, snacks, and cold drinks. The days will conclude at 3:30pm.

Participant requirements include K-12 teachers and/or educators; attend 3 days (7h/day) of training (snacks and lunch included); attend a single day post-training recap and present on how training was integrated into your curriculum

To reserve your spot on the tour, please email Shea Kinser at shea.kinser@solanorcd.org by Monday, July 24. For more information about the Solano Water Institute, click [here](#).

I Love My County Because... art contest



In an effort to bolster civic education and educate communities on the role of county government, the National Association of Counties (NACo) is hosting the 2023 "I Love My County Because..." art contest.

NACo and county leaders are spreading the word about county roles and responsibilities, which are often unknown or misunderstood. By inviting children and young adults K-12 to create artwork for the 2024 "Counties Matter" calendar, NACo hopes to raise awareness about programs and services that impact people's lives every day.

Submissions will be accepted through to September 29 at 11:59pm. Students must submit their artwork for consideration [at this link](#). For more information, click [here](#).

Solano Mobility Express Vanpool Pilot Program

The Solano Transportation Authority (STA), in partnership with Commute with Enterprise, presents the Solano Mobility Express Vanpool Pilot Program, traveling weekdays between the Vacaville Transportation Center and Sacramento, and between the Dixon Park & Ride and Sacramento.

There is a limited time introductory offer of \$50 for a monthly pass (regularly \$90) for riders traveling between Sacramento and Vacaville or Dixon. Solano Express Blue Line riders starting their commute in Vacaville or Dixon who purchased a monthly pass in the last six months and commute to Sacramento are eligible for the introductory price of \$50. Solano Express Blue Line riders who purchase a monthly pass and start their commute south of Vacaville can transfer in Vacaville to the Solano Mobility Express Vanpool for free.

For more information or to sign up, click [here](#) or call the Solano Mobility Call Center at (800) 535-6883.

Updates from around Solano County

Story time at Loma Vista Farm in July



The Solano County Library will host story time at Loma Vista Farm in the City of Vallejo **every Tuesday in the month of July**. The reading begins at **10am**. The farm is located at 150 Rainier Avenue. Come for a story time, and crafts, and then enjoy the farm.

"Stop & Shop" at the Fairfield PAL Student Food Pantry this summer

Local students may visit the food pantry every **Tuesday between 5 to 7pm** to pick up free pantry items to take home. A Fairfield PAL membership is not required to visit the pantry. Choose from fruits and veggies, pancakes, mac and cheese, cereals, soups, peanut butter and jelly and more. Fairfield, Suisun, and Travis teens ages

13 to 18 are able to participate. The food pantry is located at 2256 North Texas Street.

Safe Routes to School survey



What are your concerns about your child's safety traveling to and from school?

Solano County wants to encourage more students to safely ride their bikes or walk to school. Walking or riding a bike to school is great for the environment

and for our children's health but some kids and even their parents, don't feel safe on certain streets and roads.

Using this interactive map, please take a moment to point out locations where you think improvements should be made. Your insights will help update the Safe Routes to School Plan!

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

Upcoming events in Solano County

VibeSolano community event

Solano Public Health's Health Promotion and Community Wellness bureau, or VibeSolano, is hosting a summer event at Heritage Park in Suisun City from 10am to 12pm, Saturday, July 22. VibeSolano and community partners will provide resources on wellness and nutrition and have various recreational activities set up in the park. There will also be a bike rodeo, helmet distribution, exercise demonstrations, and raffle prizes! Heritage Park is located at 611 Village Drive.

Solano Annual Big Time and Powwow

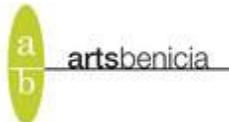
Join 7 Generations Intertribal Council in conjunction with Solano Community College for the 2023 Annual Summer BigTime and Powwow on Saturday, July 22 from 11am to 9pm and Sunday, July 23 from 11am to 6pm, at Solano Community College, 4000 Suisun Valley Road in the city of Fairfield.

National Ice Cream Day with a cop



Celebrate National Ice Cream Day with a cup or cone at Tuttimelon on **Saturday, July 22, from 3 to 6pm**. Like Coffee with A Cop, there will be no agendas and no speeches, just gelato and conversation. Tuttimelon is located inside the Solano Town Center- 1350 Travis Blvd. On the First Floor, across from Old Navy.

Arts Benicia



Arts Benicia will open two new exhibitions this month, **California Printmakers...Tradition and Innovation**, juried by master printmakers **Yuko Nakano and Kazuko Watanabe**, both of **Kala Art**

Institute in Berkeley. The exhibition highlights the best in recent California printmaking by 40 artists and features a wide range of printmaking techniques. The second exhibition is **Freedom or Slavery: The Paul Robeson Portfolio**. The portfolio is comprised of 14 screenprints and accompanying texts and essays, is on loan from **Vallejo Center for the Arts**. These two exhibitions open on **Saturday, July 22** with a reception from **4 to 6 pm**.

Join Arts Benicia on **October 1st for Uncorked: Champagne and Chocolate**, and taste a variety of champagnes, bubbly spirits, chocolates, and truffles. On **Thursday, November 2nd**, members can join for wine and beer at a preview before the sale opens to the public. Finally, on **December 15th**, Arts Benicia will present **Holiday Spirits! A bourbon, brandy, and cognac tasting**. Please note, all our events will also feature delicious non-alcoholic beverages.

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

Arts Benicia also offers **art classes for adults**, many of which are open to beginners. As summer provides more free time for fun and creativity, consider checking out the new classes listed on our website. For our full listings, please visit <https://artsbenicia.org/adult-classes>

Inquiries? Email info@artsbenicia.org or visit <http://artsbenicia.org>

Job offers available at VCUSD Job Fair

The Vallejo City Unified School District (VCUSD) will host a Job Fair from **10am to 2pm on Friday, July 28**, at the District offices (665 Walnut Ave., Vallejo on Mare Island.

Prospective employees can apply, interview, and get hired that day at the event. Interested applicants are invited to fill out the [registration form](#) before the event. To see a list of all [current positions](#), please visit our website at vcusd.org. VCUSD also has an excellent benefits package for those who qualify.

For more information, email HR@vcusd.org or call (707) 556-8921 ext. 50044. Also, visit vcusd.org.

Country Night at the Ranch

Country Night at the Ranch

Fundraiser for Solano Land Trust

July 29th, 4-7pm

Food Trucks • Local Vendors
Beer & Wine Garden • Raffles

\$30/person

Win a
signed guitar
by Locked-N-
Loaded!

Rush Ranch
3521 Grizzly Island Road
Suisun City



LOCKED-N-LOADED

Get Tickets: SolanoLandTrust.org

100% of Raffle Sales Go To Solano Land Trust

Land connects us all - protecting it today,
saving it for tomorrow

Ag & Art Magazine
Silver Sponsor

Come to Rush Ranch for our second annual Country Night at the Ranch from **4 to 7pm, Saturday July 29**.

Local country luminaries Locked-N-Loaded play all-time classics and contemporary favorites with slick musicianship and plenty of heart.

Tickets are on sale today, and 100% of raffle sale proceeds support Solano Land Trust. For more information or to buy tickets, click [here](#).

The Future of Farming in Solano County

The Solano EDC Speaker Series webinar will focus on "The Future of Farming in Solano County," on **Monday, July 31 from 12 to 130pm**. President and CEO Chris Rico will be joined by panelists Dr. Abou Najm (Associate Professor for Land, Air and Water

Resources at UC Davis), William Brazelton (President of Solano County Farm Bureau), Charlie Wagner (Winemaker of Mer Soleil Wines) and Jenny Wagner (Winemaker of Emmollo Wines).

To register, click [here](#).

NAMI Solano County Speaker Series

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization, continues to host a speaker series.

Christine Eichhorn, Chair-NAMI Service Members, Veterans, and Families Council; Homefront Coordinator – NAMI Santa Clara will speak on NAMI Homefront and Our Military Community to understand the needs of those in the military community.

The event will be on **Monday July 31 from 6:30 to 7:30pm** via [Zoom](#). Meeting ID: 814 0228 2987 Passcode: 498897

Sen. Dodd hosts Vallejo Open House with Rep. John Garamendi



State Senator Bill Dodd (photo) will host an open house with Congressman John Garamendi from 5 to 7pm, Wednesday Aug. 2 in downtown Vallejo, at 420 Virginia St., Suite 1C.

Come introduce yourself, talk about key issues in both North Bay districts and learn about public services available to you.

This is an in-person event. Light refreshments and snacks will be served.

For more information, call (707) 551-2389 or email Gethsemane.Moss@sen.ca.gov

Backpack giveaway August 5!

The Fairfield Community Services Foundation is hosting its annual free backpack and food giveaway event on **August 5 from 10am to 12pm** at Bethel Community Church at 600 E. Tabor Ave. Volunteers are needed to fill the food bags for the event on August 4 at 8:30am at Bethel Community Church. Please contact Sean Quinn (Fairfield Community Services Foundation) at xsquinn@aol.com if interested!

ARC Open House

"Take a Walk" in the ARC, Adult Recreation Center, on **Thursday August 10, 10am to 3pm** at 1200 Harry Price Drive. The ARC is hosting a free open house event to showcase the wide range of fun activities available for individuals age 50 and older. Live entertainment will be featured, and you'll have the opportunity to attend educational lectures from senior resource organizations. Light refreshments will be available, and boxed lunches will be available to purchase for \$10. For more information, click [here](#).

School Supplies and more

Each year, the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District coordinates a free Back to School Resource Fair for the community's most vulnerable students and families. This event is in partnership with Fairfield Police Department's Homeless Outreach Partnership Event (H.O.P.E.) and will take place at St. Mark's Church (1600 Union Ave, Fairfield) on **Saturday, August 12 from 10am to 1pm**. School supplies, food, drinks, and community resources will be provided.

Tomato & Vine Festival returns

Get ready to celebrate the Annual Tomato & Vine Festival organized by the City of Fairfield's Parks & Recreation Department on **Saturday, August 19th from 11am to 7 pm and Sunday, August 20 from 11am to 5pm**.

One of the highlights of the festival is the incredible variety of tomatoes for purchase. With over 20 different varieties, tomato enthusiasts will be in paradise. Additionally, you'll have an opportunity to sample various tomatoes from 12 to 4 pm and those with a competitive spirit will enjoy the tomato eating contest on Saturday. On Sunday car enthusiasts can enjoy a captivating car show and stunning collection of vehicles.

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

Events I attended this week

Saturday July 15, I attended the annual summer fundraiser for the Solano County Farm Bureau. On a very hot Saturday night, it was nice to see many friends and make new friends. The food catered by the Anderson Family Catering & BBQ was excellent. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.

Tuesday night, July 18, I attended the Fairfield City Council meeting to celebrate my friend, George Kennedy, being sworn in as a new city planning commissioner. George had his family with

him. His sons attended Green Valley Middle School. I have known the family a long time. Congratulations George.

Wednesday afternoon, July 19, I attended the ribbon cutting of Tilth & Oak's new location in the Raley's shopping center in the City of Benicia. Come and check them out.

Looking for a job? Consider these links

If you or someone you know is looking for a job, please consider a career with Solano County. Click [HERE](#) to access the website and follow on Facebook [@SolanoCountyJobs](#). Please also consider these other employment resources, including:

[STATE OF CALIFORNIA](#)

[CITY OF BENICIA](#)

[CITY OF FAIRFIELD](#)

[CITY OF VALLEJO](#)

[SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE](#)

[BENICIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)

[FAIRFIELD-SUISUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)

[VALLEJO SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)

[POST OFFICE](#)

[GREATER VALLEJO RECREATION DISTRICT](#)

[YOUTH JOBS CORPS](#)

[CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS](#)

[SOLANO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT](#)

[FAIRFIELD-SUISUN SEWER DISTRICT](#)

Newsletter photo

The Glen Cove Marina in the City of Vallejo. 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.