



Supervisor Monica Brown Newsletter



Monica with Vallejo Councilmember Robert McConnell at the dedication of the USS Mariano G. Vallejo

SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Hello Benicia, Fairfield and Vallejo,

Welcome to my October 2019 newsletter. I want to update you on all that has happened since our last newsletter. If my office can be of any help to you, please don't hesitate to contact me at mebrown@solanocounty.com or at 707-784-3031.

FIRES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

I want to thank all our first responders for all their work during the fires this past weekend. The air quality is still bad, so please limit going outside and keep your windows closed (for the area, not just Vallejo).

Vallejo has lifted its water restrictions that were previously put in place. This is because the city was able to obtain generators to pump water during the power outage at the water facility.

Please sign up for Alert Solano and see the City of Vallejo's Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) link for more information. Keep safe everyone.

<http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/oes/alertsolano/information.asp>

<http://www.ci.vallejo.ca.us/cms/one.aspx?pagelD=16155309>

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN SOLANO COUNTY

At the October 1 Board meeting, the Board gave direction to staff to hire a staff person who will work to coordinate housing strategy for the county.

Here is a good article outlining the Board's direction to staff:

<https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/fairfield/solano-moves-toward-hiring-housing-czar-creating-housing-plan/>

HOME ENTERPRISE KITCHEN PANEL

On Thursday October 3, I participated in a panel discussion in Oakland about the implementation of home kitchen enterprises. Under current law, counties may allow residents to sell up to \$50,000 worth of prepared meals a year out of their homes.

SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Friday October 4, I volunteered at the SCC golf tournament. As both of my children attended SCC and I served as a trustee there, it's always fun to be involved in the SCC events.

UP BAY PRIDE

I was honored to take part in the Up-Bay Pride celebration in Benicia on Sunday October 6th. I spoke and presented a certificate to Solano Pride in honor of October being LGBT history month. I was so happy this event was held in my district.

GREEN VALLEY LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION

On Tuesday October 8th, I went to the GVLA meeting. I spoke about the Water Agency's efforts to fix the flooding of the Green Valley creek. I also talked about the need to better regulate short-term rentals in Solano County. It was a good opportunity to meet with Green Valley residents.

BENICIA FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

On Saturday October 12, I had a wonderful time at the Benicia Firefighters open house. It's always great to see the families with their kids at this event. Thank you to the Benicia Firefighters for opening their station.

EMPTY BOWLS FOOD BANK FUNDRAISER

The Food Bank had their Empty Bowls fundraiser on Saturday October 12. The money raised goes to support food programs in our community. I purchased three tables and brought student athletes from Solano College and some friends.

SENATOR BILL DODD AGING FORUM

On Tuesday October 15th, I participated in Senator Bill Dodd's forum regarding Senior issues in Suisun City as the Chairperson of the Area Agency on Aging.

TULE RED RESTORATION

On October 15, we celebrated the completion of Tule Red Restoration Project. The increased water flow will benefit the native fish species and help restore the area to its natural habitat.

PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY

On Tuesday October 16th, I was principal for a day at the Early College program. Early College allows our high school students to earn their High School Diploma and an AA degree from Solano Community College at the same time. Early College was my proudest achievement as a trustee at Solano College. It is so satisfying to see what a benefit it is to the students.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

On October 16 the Asian Pacific American Bar Association honored Bob Sampayan with the community Service Award at their 8th annual dinner. I enjoyed the event.

REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ALLOCATION (RHNA)

On Thursday October 18th, I attended my first meeting as a member of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Housing Methodology Committee. The RHNA numbers are basically the number of residential units that a jurisdiction (county or city) must allow for in their zoning laws. I

want to make sure that as we go forward, all jurisdictions are treated fairly in their requirements for housing allocations.

BENICIA TREE FOUNDATION

On Saturday October 19, I had an amazing time with the Benicia Tree foundation. We planted trees at Park Solano, near Joe Henderson Elementary School. The Benicia Tree Foundation does a lot of good work in Benicia and I am very appreciative of their efforts to beautify the city.

FILIPINO CATHOLIC CLUB LUNCHEON

On Saturday October 19, I had a great time at the Filipino Catholic Club luncheon in south Vallejo. Mayor Bob Sampayan was a featured speaker. My dear friend Eloise Scott invited me and I saw many friends.

HOME KITCHENS IN SOLANO COUNTY

On Tuesday October 22, the Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 in favor of moving my proposal to allow home kitchen enterprises (HKE) in Solano County. Staff expressed concerns about food safety and regulation. However, Supervisors Sperring and Thomson both expressed support for allowing entrepreneurs to operate their home kitchens. Supervisor Sperring pointed out that these kitchens are already happening. Allowing the Home Kitchens would allow consumers to know who has received a permit, submitted to an inspection, registered with the county and been certified in food safety.

Supervisor Sperring's motion was for staff to bring back options to the Supervisors that would bring the Supervisors options to allow home kitchens to move forward while also addressing the concerns that were raised. I am so thankful to the Supervisors for their support of my proposal.

I am also thankful to the residents and organizations who spoke in support of operating home kitchen enterprises. We heard from the Cook's alliance, residents, the Solano Small Business Development Center and family support personnel from Travis Airforce Base along with military spouses. The home kitchen program is an excellent way to support our military spouses with Travis.

Here is an article in the Daily Republic about my efforts and the Board's actions:

<https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/fairfield/vote-opens-door-for-home-kitchen-businesses-to-become-solano-reality/>

TOWNHALL WITH SHERIFF FERRARA

On Tuesday October 22, I had a townhall with Sheriff Tom Ferrara in Benicia. Residents were given the opportunity to talk to me and the Sheriff about their concerns. The Sheriff brought his Operations and Emergency Service personnel as well as the resident deputy for southern Solano County. I am so thankful to the Sheriff for co-hosting this event for me.

SUSTAINABLE SOLANO FARM TO FORK EVENT

On Thursday October 23, I participated in the Farm to Fork event put on by Sustainable Solano. The goal of this initiative is to have more food purchased and consumed that is grown here in Solano County.

Here is an article about this event:

<https://www.thereporter.com/2019/10/23/sustainable-solano-discusses-how-to-increase-availability-of-local-food/>

SOLANO TRANSPORTATION FORUM

On Thursday October 24, I participated in the STA forum in Vallejo. People could vote on which projects they want funded. I advocated for fixing Benicia Road.

AMERICAN CANYON SENIOR CENTER HOEDOWN

As the Chair of the Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging, I attended the Hoedown dinner in American Canyon.

FAIRFIELD-SUISUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

On Friday October 25th, I truly enjoyed the Special Olympics for FSUSD. I was thoroughly impressed with the students and very appreciative of all the work the staff did. It was great to see all my teacher friends.

USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO DEDICATON

On Friday October 25, I participated in the dedication of the sail of the USS Mariano G. Vallejo on Mare Island. It was so wonderful to see Vallejo's Naval History recognized.

BENICIA VETERAN'S HALL STUDENT DINNER

On Friday October 25, I had a great time at the Boys and Girls state dinner. This event was sponsored by the American Legion Post 101. This dinner honored the 3 students who represented Benicia at the American Legion state level.

VALLEJO FREE TRASH PICKUP

On Nov. 2, there will be a free garbage dumping event on Railroad Ave on Mare Island. There will be no access to the event from the Mare Island Bridge, so residents will need to enter via Highway 37. For more information, contact the Vallejo Recycling Coordinator at 707-648-5346. You must be a resident of the city of Vallejo to use this event.

Thank you for reading my newsletter. Please let m know if our office can be of any help to you. Thank you so much and have a great day.

Sincerely,

Monica Brown

Solano County Supervisor, District 2



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.