

Supervisor Monica Brown Newsletter



Monica at the Benicia Panthers Band Booster Crab Feed at the Clocktower.

SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Hello Benicia, Fairfield and Vallejo!

Welcome to my February 2020 newsletter. I want to update you on all that has happened since our last newsletter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 707-783-3031 or at mecbrown@solanocounty.com.

CORONAVIRUS

As many of you probably are aware, we recently confirmed our first case of coronavirus in the United States with an unknown origin. The person is a Solano County resident and is currently at U.C. Davis Medical Center in Sacramento. The county has declared an emergency to better access resources and coordinate responses. These are the precautions that residents are suggested to take:

- Wash hands with liquid soap and water and rub for at least 20 seconds;
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing;
- Stay home if you are sick; and
- Get a flu shot to protect yourself and others from the flu, which has similar symptoms to COVID-19.

This situation is evolving and may change. Please follow the above suggestions and continue to monitor what the county's public health department says about this. Here is a link to information on the county website: <http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/ph/ncov.asp>

CENSUS WORKSHOP

This month, I participated in a workshop about the census. Because it's important that we're all counted, I became an ambassador for the Solano Kids Count 2020 Campaign. This campaign aims to ensure that our community understands the importance of the census. The census determines how much representation we have in congress as well as how many federal dollars we receive (since both are based on population). I will be spreading the word about the importance of the census.

The census is coming: Why it is important?

For every resident that is not counted, it is a \$1000 per year loss. If 5% of our residents are not counted, it means that Solano County could take a loss of 25 million dollars per year for the next 10 years. Decisions are made based on the data collected. Decisions such as education, health care, and safety are a few examples.

Between March 12-20: Households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with information on how to respond to the 2020 Census.

April 1: Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census.

Please take the time to fill out the census. It is important that everyone is counted.

SUPPORTING RODRIGUEZ HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION UNIT (RHSEU)

On Saturday February 1st, I volunteered to bring food for the RHSEU winter review. I was not able to stay, but I was thrilled to see the students engaged and the parents in our community volunteering. Both of my children went to Rodriguez High and countless of my former students graduated from Rodriguez. I am always happy to be able to support our local schools. For more information about RHSEU, please visit: <https://www.rhseu.org/>

BENICIA PANTHERS BAND BOOSTERS CRAB FEED

On Saturday February 1st, I had a great time at the Panthers Band Boosters Crab Feed. The Panthers Band Boosters is a nonprofit that raises money for the music programs in Benicia's middle and high school. It was great to see the parents, the staff and the community out to support our students. For more information about the Panthers Band Boosters, please visit: <http://www.pantherbandboosters.com/>

BENICIA VETERAN'S CRAB FEED

The Benicia Veteran's Hall had an amazing crab feed on Saturday February 8th. Many community members were out to show their support. The Veteran's Hall is a treasure to the community, and it is important that we continue to show our support.

BAMBINO'S GRAND OPENING IN VALLEJO

On Wednesday February 12th, the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce held a grand opening for Bambino's. Bambino's is a new Italian restaurant located on 301 Georgia St. A lot of people from Vallejo were present to support our new business. It is truly important that we do our best to support local businesses.

FIRST FIVE VALLJEO CENTER OPENING

The First 5 center opened in Vallejo on February 13th. I was present for the opening. The center is located on 3375 Sonoma Blvd. The center will offer classes and resources to parents and children. At the center, parents and caregivers have a safe and welcoming environment where they can receive information and holistic support to meet family needs and be connected to appropriate resources in the community. All services and programs are at no cost. For more information, visit: <http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/first5/default.asp>

SPEAKING AT A CLIMATE CHANGE PRESS CONFERENCE IN SACRAMENTO

On February 14th, I participated in a press conference with other elected officials in Sacramento. The topic was climate change and asking the legislature to transition our energy use to clean energy. I spoke about Benicia's fight against crude-by-rail and Vallejo's fight against the Orcem cement factory. I also spoke about the refineries in the area and how impacted we are, particularly in south Vallejo.

RODRIGUEZ HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION UNIT (RHSEU) CRAB FEED

On Saturday February 15th, RHSEU put on a great crab feed at the Nelson Center. The crab was delicious. This is the big fundraiser every year that supports music at Rodriguez and I was happy to be a part of it and to see so many community members.

VALLEJO BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

On Saturday February 22nd, Vallejo resident Askari Swonde put together a panel discussion for Black History Month. Famed attorney John Burris was a part of the panel. Burris was born and raised in Vallejo and talked about current events and his career as a lawyer. It was a very informative discussion and I thoroughly enjoyed myself.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING AND SOLANO RECEIVING OUR FAIR SHARE

I serve as the county representative to the Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Oversight Board. The previous AAA was run as a nonprofit. Unfortunately, the nonprofit was forced to dissolve because of mismanagement. The AAA was reconstituted in its current form as a Joint Powers Authority with both Napa and Solano Counties.

Under funding formulas previously established by the nonprofit, Solano County was not receiving our fair share of the Older Americans Act dollars. Solano County should have been receiving roughly 73% of the funding as we have roughly 73% of the population for the Napa/Solano AAA. We were only receiving about 60% of the funding. On Monday February 24th, the staff recommended, and the oversight board approved providing Solano County with our fair share of the funding.

In my time on the AAA, I have fought to protect Solano's seniors and I was thrilled to see us receive our fair share of funding. I will always fight to protect Solano County's residents.

VALLEJO TRANSIT CENTER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

On Monday February 24th, I attended the groundbreaking ceremony for improvements to the Vallejo Transit Center on York St. I am thrilled to see transit options expanding for Vallejo. Transit will help to make bring people to Vallejo and literally put the city on the map.

CONTRACT WITH BENICIA PUBLISHING COMPANY

On Tuesday February 25th, the Board of Supervisors approved a contract with Literary Engineers of Benicia. The contract will be with the probation department for 6 months and will not exceed \$45,000. The contract will provide books for 3rd graders that highlight the positive impact of probation officers in the community. The books will highlight the positive impacts of probation officers in the community. The probation department has standing relationship with Literary Engineers.

Author Andre Stewart of Literary Engineers was present at the Board meeting and gave me a signed copy of one of his books. For more information about Literary Engineers, you can visit: <http://www.literaryengineers.com/>

HOUSING COORDINATOR

I am pleased to announce that the county has hired a staffer who will deal solely with housing for the county. The Board directed the County Administrator to hire a staff person who will oversee housing for the county. I requested at many Board meetings thereafter, for us to fill this position. I requested this position be filled because I and my colleagues understand that housing is an important issue and we need to take a proactive role.

ASSISTANCE FROM SENATOR KAMALA HARRIS SEEKING FUNDING

The office of Senator Kamala Harris reached out to my office to see if Solano County was seeking funding associated with bringing Americans with the corona virus to Travis Air Force Base. The county will be seeking funding for our costs associated with this. I put the Senator's office in touch with the County Public Health Officer to coordinate our request for funding.

SIX MILLION DOLLAR GRANT FOR MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY

I am so pleased to announce that the county has received a \$6.3 million grant for a mental health facility on Beck Ave in Fairfield (this is in my District). I am so thrilled with this announcement. The discussions about this grant began when I convened a task force on Laura's Law (allowing court ordered treatment of those with severe and persistent mental illness). We were able to get Laura's Law passed in Solano County and now we have obtained this grant. This will go a long way to providing services to our most vulnerable residents. Here is an article from the Daily Republic about the grant: <https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/fairfield/solano-receives-6-3m-to-start-mental-health-facility/>

SOLANO COUNTY JOB FAIR

On Saturday, March 21 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., the county will be holding a job fair. The event will be located at the County Events Center at 601 Texas St in Fairfield. Here is a list of jobs currently available at Solano County: <https://jobapscloud.com/solano/>

Thank you for reading my newsletter. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of any assistance.

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.