



Solano County *California*

SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER

December 8, 2023



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Happy Hanukkah!

Important Numbers Resources and Dates

District 2 Office

(707) 784-3031

Clerk of the Board & County Administrator's Office

(707) 784-6100

Veterans Services

(707) 784-6590

Health & Social Services

(707) 784-8400

Assessor/Recorder

(707) 784-6200

Resource Management

(707) 784-6765

Registrar of Voters

(707) 784-6675

Tax Collector/Treasurer/County Clerk

(707) 784-7485

Area Agency on Aging

(707) 784-8960



Sandra Day O'Connor



This week I want to remember Sandra Day O'Connor-the first woman on the Supreme Court. She was nominated in 1981. She died last week at the age of 93.

She believed that women have a constitutional right to an abortion when she refused to join the other four justices in 1989 who wanted to reverse Roe v. Wade. Justice O'Connor said..." had no idea when I was appointed how much it would mean to many people around the

country." "People saw it as a signal that there are virtually unlimited opportunities for women."

When the justice graduated from law school, no one would hire her in the 1950's. We are still working on equality for all. Ms. O'Connor will be missed.

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

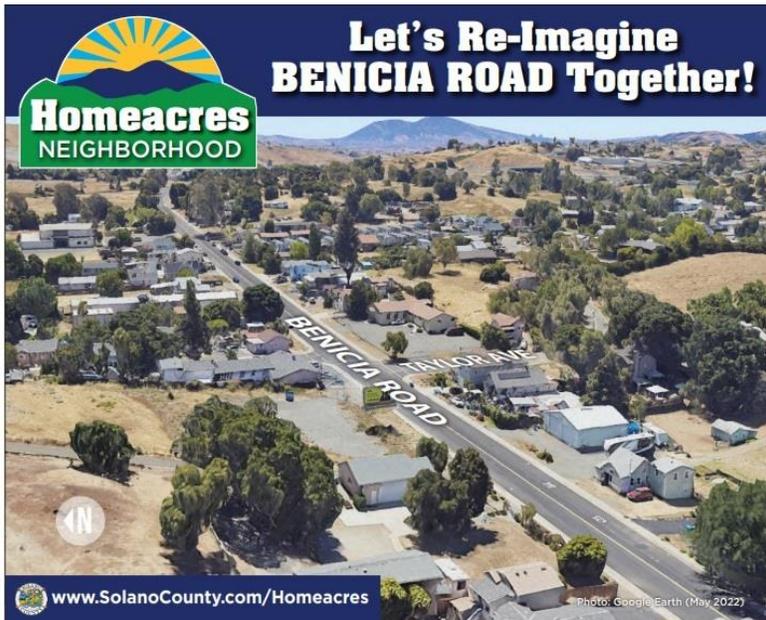
877-565-8860

Information this week

Scam Warning!

A clever new scam spurred an East Bay police department to share a detailed warning as residents' shop for presents this holiday season. To read more, click [here](#).

Reimagining Benicia Road event postponed



Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Reimagining Benicia Road event scheduled this week has been postponed to next spring.

Solano County officials are seeking input from residents to help plan the potential future of Benicia Road in the city of Vallejo. The event is a three-day design workshop to help provide a clear, community-supported vision for the area.

No official make-up date has been announced.

Make It Home

The non-profit furniture bank, Make It Home, has a goal of helping Bay Area families and individuals transitioning out of crisis by recycling, repurposing, and curating gently-used, donated furnishings to transform empty spaces into homes.

Make It Home aims to end furniture poverty while protecting the environment. The non-profit, founding in October 2020, has served almost 1600 households all over the Bay Area including 70 households in Solano County in the last year.

I founded this because I do believe everyone deserves to have a bed to sleep in and a sofa to sit on AND it should not be required of social workers to try to find free furniture for clients, on top of their already daunting caseloads. We are solving two problems at the same time—we save furnishings from the landfill and provide those furnishings to people who need them. There is plenty to go around.

For more information, click [here](#). Instagram: @makeithomebayarea

Stand Against Hunger with ABC10



Take a Stand Against Hunger! This holiday season, ABC10 and seven local food banks will provide meals for community members facing hunger. More than 1 in every 5 Californians are food insecure, which includes more than 700,000 people in our area. Children, single parents, veterans and so many more go to bed each night not knowing where their next meal will come from. Join ABC10's Stand Against Hunger by donating to a local food bank. A donation of even just \$1 can provide 5 healthy meals to our neighbors in need. Find a nearby food bank by clicking [here](#).

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. This benefit is limited to Kaiser Medicare members who had coverage through an employer or who were also on Medi-Cal.

Need Help Paying Your Energy Bill? These Programs Can Help



This winter, colder weather and darker skies may cause your energy bill to climb. Did you know our local electricity provider, MCE, can help keep these costs down? Take

advantage of these tips and tricks to save with small changes at home, and see if you qualify for any discount or bill relief programs.

Tips and Tricks:

- **Don't use big electric appliances between 4-9 p.m.**, when electricity costs more. Small changes like doing laundry in the morning, preheating your home early in the day, and using fewer lights can make a big difference in your bill.
- **Consider switching to energy-efficient holiday lighting.** Holiday lights use [65 kilowatt-hours a month](#) on average. That's almost as much as your [refrigerator](#)! Switch to LED and solar-powered options to save on your bill.
- **Use timers and smart-strips.** Electronics draw electricity any time they're plugged in, even when not in use! Using the on-off switch on a smart-strip outlet and putting lighting

on timers to turn on and off automatically can help dramatically. It's estimated that these "vampire" appliances represent up to 10% of your annual energy usage.

Bill Savings Programs:

- [California Alternate Rates for Energy \(CARE\)](#) provides discounts of 35% on electricity and 20% on gas costs for income-qualifying homes.
- [Family Electric Rate Assistance \(FERA\)](#) offers an 18% monthly electric bill discount for income-qualifying households of 3 or more people.
- [Medical Baseline Allowance](#) offers savings for residents with a qualifying medical device or medical condition and extra notifications in advance of a Public Safety Power Shutoff.

Late Payment and Debt Relief:

- The [Arrearage Management Plan](#) offers debt-forgiveness up to \$8,000 to customers who have fallen behind on monthly bills. Customers must be enrolled in the [CARE or FERA](#) programs and be 90 days past due on at least \$500 of their energy bill.
- The [Relief for Energy Assistance Through Community Help](#) program offers a one-time energy bill credit up to \$300 when a sudden hardship occurs and households need additional support.
- The [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#) offers up to \$3,000 in assistance with energy costs in addition to [free energy efficiency upgrades](#).

If you have questions about your electricity bill or any of these programs, please contact MCE at info@mceCleanEnergy.org or 1 (888) 632-3674 Mon-Fri: 9 am-5 pm.

Biotechnology survey

Biotech Jobs Survey

Take this 5 question survey for a chance to win 4 Six Flags tickets!

[Click Here for the Survey.](#)

or visit
solanoemployment.org/biotechsurvey

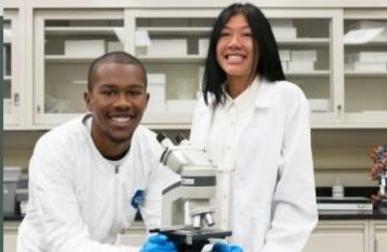


Help us learn what our community knows about this growing and high-opportunity industry in Solano County!

Survey closes 12.8.2023

AN INITIATIVE OF

SOLANO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF SOLANO COUNTY
SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SOLANO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
CITY OF VACAVILLE



Various local agencies have released a biotechnology survey for students and families in Solano County.

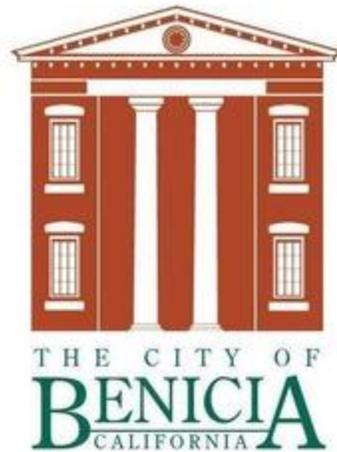
Anyone may complete this survey and will help the agencies to understand what people already know about biotechnology. Complete the survey for a chance for four free tickets to Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in the city of Vallejo. **Survey will close December 8 with the raffle winner announced by December 13.**

To take the survey, click [here](#).

Public hearings

Benicia Parks, Trails, Open Space Master Plan

The city of Benicia began the process of updating the 1997 Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan in 2021. After extensive community input, the Parks and Community Services Department has completed a draft of the Master Plan for public review.



The document is in its final form regarding recommendations provided by the community for improvements to the parks, trails and open space system. The draft was presented to the Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Commission on Oct. 18, 2023, at which time public input on the draft was welcomed.

The document will go back to the Commission in January 2024. In the interim, the community is welcome to review the draft and provide comment for consideration by the Commission. [Submit comments here.](#)

The deadline to submit a comment is Sunday, December 10.

Fairfield Forward 2050 City Council Study Session: Preferred Plan



On December 19, the Fairfield City Council will hold a study session on the General Plan Preferred Plan. The Preferred Plan communicates the community's vision for how the City will grow and develop over the next 25+ years and provides the foundation for more detailed policies.

The Council has held six study sessions over the past 22 months on the Preferred Plan and provided direction at the meeting on September 12. At the December 19 session, the Council will be

asked to confirm direction of the Preferred Plan guiding policies and provide any additional ideas or suggestions to be reflected in the General Plan document, which will be developed in the coming months.

Fairfield Forward 2050: Preferred Plan Study Session will take on **Tuesday, December 19, from 6 to 8pm** inside the Harry T. Price Memorial Council Chamber, 1000 Webster Street.

Updates from around Solano County

MoHB Christmas Tree Lot



The Museum of History Benicia is offering Christmas Trees for sale from now to Christmas. Help your local community museum and find your perfect Christmas Tree all at the same time.

The Museum of History Benicia lot is located at 900 East 2nd Street in downtown Benicia. For more information, click [here](http://www.mohbenicia.org).

Point-In-Time Count 2024 Volunteer recruitment

Register to Volunteer Today!

Solano
**POINT
IN TIME
COUNT**

JPA
CAP Solano



What is a Point-in-Time Count?

The Point In Time (PIT) Count is a count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. This is a requirement by HUD to be conducted every other year.

The PIT Count provides data that is used to determine funding from the State and Federal Government to help provide better programs and services to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

For more information or to sign up to volunteer:
Visit <https://solano24.pointintime.info/>
or scan the QR Code from your mobile device



When: January 31, 2024
Time: 5:30AM – 10:00AM

For any additional questions, please reach out to:

Becky Farris
PIT Coordinator
rlfarris@solanocounty.com

The Community Action Partnership Solano Joint Powers Authority is looking for volunteers to help with the Point-In-Time (PIT) count next January. The PIT count is a count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January.

This is a requirement by **United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** to be conducted every other year. The PIT Count provides data that is used to determine funding from the State and Federal Government to help provide better programs and services to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. How can you participate:

1. Register to volunteer on the [Volunteer Registration Portal](#)
2. Reach out to family, friends, and co-workers to volunteer for the count

Shelter Report - November Statistics

There were 11 dog and five cat adoptions at the Humane Society of the North Bay in the month of November. Five dogs and three cats were transfers to adoption-guaranteed partners. Finally, 20 dogs and a cat were returned to their respective owners.

Remember, your best opportunity for us to reunite you with your dog or cat, if lost, is to have an up-to-date microchip on your pet. HSNB offers low-cost microchips. For more information, click [here](#).

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Library



The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Library moved to a new location on Mare Island and is now open to the public. The library contains a large collection of Navy and Mare Island-related books, manuals, maps, and files covering over 1,000 different topics.

The library is located on the east side of the building on the ground floor at 1175 Nimitz Avenue on Mare Island and is typically open to the public on **Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm.**

For access during posted hours, please call for volunteer availability at (707) 557-4646

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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 to 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)

Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging Request for Proposals



The Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging is excited to announce a Request for Proposals (RFP) to support services to seniors and disabled adults. Services include senior nutrition, case management, transportation, visiting, ombudsman, legal

assistance, home care assistance, emergency aid and assistance.

The deadline for proposal submission is January 17, 2024 at 5pm.

For more details or to apply to the RFP, click [here](#). Contact Nesmith Despabiladeras at nadespadilaeras@solanocounty.com or at (707) 784-6322 for any questions.

Upcoming events in Solano County Festival of Lights



Join the Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) for some holiday family fun at Festival of Lights! Bring the kiddos or friends down to Children's Wonderland to enjoy the Holiday festivities, music, and hot cocoa!

This is a free community event offered **Friday to Sunday, through to December 30 from 4 to 7pm**, at Children's Wonderland, 360 Glenn Street.

Closed: 12/24, 12/25, and 12/31.

Please remember to wear weather appropriate clothing as this is a rain or shine event.

Solano Water Stories

Solano Water Stories exhibition, designed by artist and educator Mary Shaw, is part of a larger Arts Benicia grant project called *Stewarding our Resources: Solano Artists Create, Collaborate, and Educate*, funded by the California Creative Corps, a program of the California



Arts Council. The project is engaging artists in creating original material to be used to educate Californians about water conservation and climate mitigation.

Solano Water Stories is about the history of water, water conservation, and climate change mitigation practices in Solano County. Designed for all ages, this exhibition includes information about historic, indigenous, and current urban, rural and agricultural land and water use as well as ongoing conservation practices. It includes a pop-up reading room, original artworks, personal water stories, a poetry corner, maps, videos, photographs, and additional information gathered from our partner organizations: Sustainable Solano, Solano Resource Conservation District, Solano Land Trust, and the Solano County Water Agency.

On view at Arts Benicia **November 18 – December 17**, Solano Water Stories exhibition aims to facilitate a deeper understanding of the problems facing the upcoming generation and the solutions that may already be partly in place, upon which they can improve. *Solano Water Stories* is about Solano County water conservation in the face of climate change, community engagement, and hope for a sustainable future.

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

Holiday hula performance

Solano County
LIBRARY

Web: solanolibrary.com
Phone: 1-866-572-7587
f @ v solanolibrary

HALE HULA O' NA PUA
HOLIDAY HULA PERFORMANCE



Enjoy the aloha spirit this holiday season
with Hale Hula O Na Pua
as they perform to such favorites as
"Jingle Bell Rock" and "White Christmas."

FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
10 AM

For more information,
visit solanolibrary.com/events

On **Saturday, December 9 at 10am**, the Hale Hula O Na Pua group will be hula dancing at the Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky Street.

They will hula dance to holiday song favorites like White Christmas and Jingle Bell Rock. This is an all-ages program so all are welcome to attend.

Christmas Parade

The Benicia Christmas Parade will take place on **Saturday, December 9, from 10 to 11am**. The parade starts at First and D Street and ends at H Street. It will feature local marching bands, dancers, and Santa Claus.

Jingle and Mingle



Vallejo Main Street will be hosting Jingle & Mingle from **11 am to 3pm, Saturday, December 9** along Georgia Street and surrounding streets in downtown Vallejo. The event will feature music, crafts, contests, tasty sips & snacks, and prizes.

There will also be a Sip Sip Stroll. Visit participating merchants for sips or snacks while hunting for clues or enjoy a little somethin' while marking off your holiday gift list.

How it works:

- [Buy a ticket](#)
- Get a bracelet
- Grab a map
- Enjoy!

Discounted tickets are \$20/person and includes: t-shirt, cup, and \$20 Downtown Dollars! To purchase, click [here](#).

December Cultural Celebrations: Poetry Open Mic



Fairfield Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce is hosting a December Cultural Celebrations Poetry Open Mic from **1 to 3pm, Saturday, December 9**, at the Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky Street in the city of Fairfield.

Violinist David Belt will also be performing. Poets may sell their books (10% of sales to be donated to Friends of the Library).

Benicia Fire Toy Drive



The Benicia Fire Department is now accepting toys for donation to local kids in need. Please bring new, unwrapped toys to any of the fire department's collection bins by **December 10**. New stuffed animals are also accepted.

Santa Claus is also visiting the Benicia Fire Department at Fire Station 11, 150 Military West, on **Saturday, December 9 from 3 to 6pm**. When you come to get your picture taken, you can also bring your toy for donation.

Collection bin locations:

- Fire Station 11 (150 Military West)
- Fire Station 12 (601 Hastings)

- City Hall (250 East L)
- Benicia Public Library (150 East L)
- Senior Center (187 East L)
- Community Center (370 East L)
- All Benicia Starbucks locations

Call (707) 746-4275 for more information.

Second Annual Chanukah Celebration

Benicia's Second Annual Chanukah celebration will take place on **Sunday, December 10, the fourth night of Chanukah, at the City Park Gazebo at 4pm.**

The events included in the eight days are the fourth night lighting on the 10th, the congregation B'nai Israel, Rabbi David White and friends bless the candles and sing holiday songs on the sixth night on the 12th, Benicia Solano Jewish Women's Network hosts the annual Megan Campbell Memorial Menorah lighting and Chanukah story telling and songs on the 13th, and the 14th is hosted by Solano Napa Hadassah Chapter, who will light the candles on that final night.

Annual Menorah Lighting on December 11 in Downtown Fairfield

The city of Fairfield, in partnership with the Chabad of Solano County, announced the third annual Fairfield Menorah Lighting Ceremony, located in Downtown Fairfield. The event will take place on **Monday, December 11, and begin at 5:30 pm.** It will be held on the County Greens at the corner of Texas and Jefferson Streets. Rabbi Zaklos and Fairfield Mayor Moy will light the Menorah during the evening ceremony.

Festivities following the lighting ceremony include family entertainment, hot latkes, donuts, and Chanukah cookies.

Contact Special Events Coordinator, Andrea Azurdia at aazurdia@fairfield.ca.gov or (707) 399-4101 with any questions or for more information.

Healing our Future: Addressing Black Maternal and Infant Health in Solano County Seminar



Solano County Supervisor Wanda Williams, Black Women Organized for Political Action Solano/Napa Chapter & Solano County Health and Social Services presents their seminar Healing Our Future: Addressing Black Maternal and Infant Health in Solano County scheduled for **Saturday, January 20, 2024 from 11:30am to 1:30pm** in Fairfield.

The program will be held at the Solano County Events Center, 601 Texas Street, Fairfield.

Sponsorship opportunities and booth space is available. For more information, contact Latressa Wilson Alford at lwilsonalford@solanocounty.com.

19th Annual Solano County African American Community Baby Shower



A More Excellent Way Health Organization and community partners are inviting African American pregnant and breastfeeding women and expectant fathers to the Virtual and Drive-Thru “More Excellent Way Community Baby Shower”

on Saturday, February 24, 2024. This event is free and will include health and education workshops and a drive-thru health and resource fair.

To register, click [here](#). For more information, contact Monique Sims at Mnqsims@gmail.com or call (707) 319-7489.

The event will take place from 10am to noon, Saturday, February 25, 2024 via Zoom for the health and education workshops, and at Refuge Community Fellowship Church, 104 Lincoln Road, Vallejo from **12:30 to 2:30pm** for the drive-thru health and resource fair.

Back to Basics Class available

The Benicia Adult Education is offering a Back to Basics Class: A Sampler on Self-Sufficiency Living. It is a 16-week course that will cover topics such as growing food and herbs at home, beekeeping, keeping chickens, various methods of gardening, composting and making kombucha.

Tuition is \$250 and students will earn a certificate. **The class begins on January 20, 2024 and runs through May 4, 2024.** Classes are on Saturdays from 10 to 11am and will be held at the

Benicia Adult School at 350 East K St., Room 7. To register, click [here](#).

Solano Community College crab and shrimp feed

SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Crab & Shrimp Feed

Saturday, March 2, 2024

Solano College

Captain Bob's Dive Bar

OPEN LATE!

Fresh Dungeness crab and extra jumbo sized shrimp, pasta, salad and garlic bread. Rotisserie chicken option with special order. Delightful ice cream desserts available from ITS-IT.

Enjoy Captain Bob's Dive Bar with a live band & dancing, plus frozen margaritas, pina colodas, micro brews on tap from Heretic and fine wine from Suisun Valley.

\$75

Event Location & Time
Solano Community College
Student Center/Bookstore (1400 Bldg.)
4000 Suisun Valley Road
Fairfield, CA 94534
Saturday, March 2nd
5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Dive Bar till about 10:00 p.m.

Early Bird price \$70 during November. Large parties of 20-38 may sit at one table at the \$70 price (no additional discount). Sponsorships start at \$500. Call Curt or Eileen at 707-864-7199.

Wellcome to the islands!
Wear your island or nautical garb and have more fun!

All proceeds benefit the SCC Educational Foundation. To purchase tickets call Eileen Amick at 707-864-7199 or go to our event webpage below:
<https://foundation.solano.edu/event/2024-crab-shrimp-feed/>

THANKS TO OUR PAST MAJOR SPONSORS:

PC&E KITCHELL TRAVIS TRAVIS TRAVIS REPUBLIC SERVICES ESTERO OILS LAKEFILL TERRY UNIVERSITY AT&T

The Solano Community College Educational Foundation will hold a crab and shrimp feed on **Saturday, March 2, 2024** inside the 1400 building at 4000 Suisun Valley Road, in the city of Fairfield. The early bird price is \$70 through the month of November.

For more information, and/or to buy tickets, click [here](#).

Events I attended this week

Friday, December 1, I attended the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony in Benicia. I went to the Vet Hall and bought a cheeseburger. I walked down First Street to the tree. Weather was

great, music was abundant, the crowd was happy and there was a sailboat out on the water decked out with lights. What a great event. On my way back, I stopped at the Veteran's Hall, bought homemade cookies, and took a picture with Santa. The Veterans are holding a toy drive, if you can donate. Another wonderful Friday night in Benicia.

Saturday, December 2, I attended the Vallejo Mad Hatter Parade. I want to thank the family that allowed me to ride with them. This parade I believed was the best one. Everyone's projects were phenomenal. The weather was perfect. There was happiness in the air. It was so much fun to make new friends and to see old friends. This parade puts Vallejo on the map as it is so whimsical and show cases what can be done in this great city if we work together.



Supervisor Monica Brown with Santa at the Benicia Veterans Hall.
Photo by Michelle.

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

Benicia Christmas Tree. Photo: Monica Brown.



First elected in 2016, Monica represents District 2 on the Solano County Board of Supervisors. District 2 encompasses the city of Benicia, the portion of Vallejo south of Georgia Street, Mare Island, Cordelia, Green Valley and a portion of Fairfield.