

Sustainable Benician

News on Community Recycling & Waste Services



Sustainability in Action

Tops to Roots Zero-Waste Cooking Class



Thursday, June 26, 6–7 p.m.
Avant Garden, 400 First St., Benicia

Learn how you can cut back on household food waste, save money and resources, and be part of the solution to stop climate change.

- The US Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) report released on 4/4/25 shows that, on average, a family of four spends almost \$3,000 per year on food that never gets eaten. Wasting food also wastes the labor and other resources spent to produce, package, transport, and sell uneaten food.
- Rotting food in the landfill creates methane gas, a super pollutant more powerful than CO₂, that contributes to climate change.

Join Stephanie Oelsigle Jordan, Sustainable Solano’s Local Food Program Manager, for a cooking class that explores what to do with those strawberry tops, wilting herbs, extra zucchini, and more. Chef Steph will walk through several recipe ideas, discuss food storage strategies, the real meaning of “best by” and expiration dates, and demonstrate a seasonal salad with bottom-of-the-jar Dijon vinaigrette. Information on current requirements of SB 1383 food waste law affecting Benicia will begin the class and an audience Q&A/discussion will take place at the end.

To register: SustainableSolano.org/events or visit the calendar at SustainableSolano.org. This class is funded by Republic Services.

We made compost with organics from your green cart! Add compost to your soil to nourish your garden. Consider planting an extra row for Food is Free Bay Area or The Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano.



Free Compost Giveaway

Saturday, August 2nd, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Alvarez 9th Street Park

- Bring your own containers. 8 x 5-gallon buckets work best.
- No bags please.
- For Benicia Residents only and by appointment to reduce waiting time.

For instructions and to sign up, visit: RepublicServices.com/BeniciaCA and look for the “Compost Giveaway” signup button. It will be “live” after July 7th

Have questions? Want to be added to the reminder email blast? Contact MKnutson@RepublicServices.com

Happy Gardening!

2024 Eco Award Winners:



Marie Knutson, Republic Services; Sam Adams, Bottom of the 5th; and Mayor Steve Young

The Bottom of the Fifth, Sports Bar & Grill

Bottom of the Fifth is Benicia's oldest bar. It is a family-owned business, owned by Bruce Adams, and has operated on Military East since 1990. Sam Adams, his son, helps there too. Bruce also co-owned and operated JM's on First Street for 10 years before moving the bar to the current location at the corner of 5th and Military East. Bruce's father, Harold Adams, owned the Towne Club from 1961 until 1979 at 500 First Street. Bruce's grandfather, George Wolff, was the owner of the City Drug Store on 801 First St from the early 1930's until 1975.

Bottom of the Fifth is an asset to the community through their longevity and sustainability. We are grateful for all the energy the family has invested in Benicia.

It's a fun place to see sports, enjoy their pool tables, and they have completed a new upstairs room for parties or meetings. They have a full bar, fresh quality ingredient menu, plus a great Taco Tuesday. They worked hard on their sustainability, increased their recycling and composting, and became top-notch at diverting waste from the landfill.

Congratulations! and thank you for being a leader in environmental stewardship.



Scout Christina Thomsen holding certificate presented by Mayor Steve Young, with fellow scouts.

Benicia Scouts

The first Christmas Tree Collection with the Scouts was the 1989/1990 season making this our 35th year working together. Former Scout leader, Tom Harryman, started the project that is now supervised by Bryan Baeta. The Benicia Scouts not only organize the entire collection, but they also pick up the trees and process those dropped off. They provide a count of how many trees were chipped, but this year they also provided the weight of the trees chipped. This was no small task. Michael Becker, a 15-year-old scout in Troop 7, and the handful of scouts who individually weighed and logged the weight of 50 trees to come up with an average weight per tree. This season, they chipped 922 trees, equating to an average weight of 19,490 lbs. (almost 10 tons) The chips are used as mulch around Benicia's parks.

It's not just tree collecting that they were applauded for. The Scouts are taught to embrace sustainability. They also volunteer to help neighbors in need. The Scouts helped remove and chip Christmas trees sold at St. Dominic's Church & School when a family emergency left the church's staff shorthanded with 40 trees left over. They hauled away and chipped the trees, cleaning everything up including pallets. They also cleaned up a wet mess that was caused by a driver who hit a fire hydrant near the yard of a family who was already dealing with emergencies. For 2024, over 50 Benicia Scouts earned a combined amount of over 500 conservation service hours collecting trees and helping neighbors.

Thank you! The care and support the Scouts have given to the community is appreciated.



Planning a summer event?

Remember that all single-use knives/forks/spoons—even if compostable—go in the landfill. Only bamboo utensils can be composted.

Time flies when you are having fun. Republic Services has been a member and supporter of the Benicia Chamber of Commerce for 53 years.



Want to check out a Republic Services recycling truck?

Museum of History Benicia
June 28th 10a.m. - 2 p.m.

Visit BeniciaMomsGroup.com for details.



In a landfill:

- Aluminum cans take 80-500 years to break down.
- Plastic bottles hang around as long as 450 to 1,000 years.
- Glass bottles take 1 million years to decompose.

Please Recycle!

