

## Benicia: a city bursting with fall activities

Fall 2011

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### Greetings!

The leaves are changing color, the air is getting crisp and it's time once again to welcome the alluring fall season in Benicia! This time of year, Benicia hosts a variety of autumnal activities to keep your calendar full.

Here's a look at what's happening October through November, and a peek at spirited activities to come this winter...

### October

**October - all month, Scarecrow Contest:** Kicking off the month is the Scarecrow Contest. Six-foot-tall scarecrows will greet you along First Street during October, imaginatively fashioned by downtown businesses. Vote on your favorite by picking up and dropping off a ballot at the participating merchants, or stop by the Benicia Main Street booth at the Thursday night Farmers Market through October 27 to cast a vote (\$1 per vote.)

**October - every Thursday, 4 to 7 p.m., Farmers Market:** The final weeks of the Certified Farmer's Market have arrived. The market wraps up Thursday, October 27 with the Farmers Market Finale. Enjoy an evening of special events, live music and surprises, including announcement of the winners of the Scarecrow Decorating Contest and the Frequent Shopper grand prize.

**October 7-9, Benicia Fashion Weekend:** Benicia Fashion Weekend showcases a unique mix of boutiques that feature designers and apparel exclusive to the area. There are more than 35 spas and salons downtown offering the most innovative trends in hair, skin and make-up. We invite you to spend the weekend in Benicia, the fashion and beauty destination for women throughout the Bay Area:

- Friday: Fashion Night Out with shopping from 6 to 9 p.m.



- Saturday: Fashion runway show - doors open at 5:30 p.m. for a reception with wine, appetizers and an auction. At 7:15 the runway show begins
- Saturday and Sunday: Trunk shows and demonstrations throughout the day at various shops

For more information and a list of participating stores, please call [Benicia Main Street](tel:7077459791) at (707) 745-9791.

**October 7, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, Ghost Walk:** Thrill seekers looking for spooky tales and paranormal intrigue this October will be impressed by Benicia's paranormal history revealed during these spine-chilling adventures. Paranormal investigators Donna Raymond and Devin Sisk lead the walks, starting at the Historic Railroad Depot, 90 First Street, that meander downtown. Tickets cost \$25 each. No children under 10 are permitted. For information on daily event times or other details call [Benicia Main Street](tel:7077459791) at (707) 745-9791. Note: During October, there are additional Ghost Walk dates; usually the walks are offered the first and third Friday of every month.



Photo credit: Walter Gendell

**October 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, and 31, Haunted Depot and Pumpkin Patch:** The Southern Pacific Railroad Depot mysteriously transforms into a ghost town inspired by the Old West. Stop by 90 First Street to get spooked! While you're there, pick up a pumpkin to bring home for Jack-O-Lantern carving.

**October 15, Tabula Rasa: Emerging Curators Opening Reception:** This is the opening reception of an exhibition created by up-and-coming curators in the Arts Benicia gallery at 991 Tyler Street, Suite 114. The reception is 7 to 9 p.m. The exhibit runs October 11 through November 11.

**October 15, Sorcerer Saturday:** From 12 to 5 p.m., First Street and the First Street Green will host a family-friendly celebration of sorcerers, witches and warlocks. Vendors and special activities will awaken the magic and mystery. Adults can partake in special brews! For details, call [Benicia Main Street](tel:7077459791) at (707) 745-9791.

**October 15, Spenger Garden Concert Series presents Wavelength:** The Benicia Historical Museum and Red Dragonfly Productions present Wavelength in the last concert of the 2011 series. Wavelength plays electric Latin jazz and funk during this outdoor concert. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online at [www.beniciahistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.beniciahistoricalmuseum.org). Spenger Garden is located at 2024 Camel Road. For more information, please call (707) 745-5435.

**October 16, Family Art Day:** Family Art Day, in conjunction with the Tabula Rasa exhibition, provides an opportunity for families with children to explore the art world. Learn, create and experience arts and crafts together during this engaging afternoon, with hands-on techniques taught by Arts Benicia staff. Visit Arts Benicia from 1 to 3 p.m., 991 Tyler Street, Suite 114 to join the fun!

**October 21, The Voice of the Prairie - a Benicia Old Town Theater (BOTTG) production:** Opening night of the Voice of



the Prairie is October 21, presented by BOTTG, a theater company that's been producing quality local plays for over 47 years. The Voice of the Prairie, a play by John Olive, will run over four weekends. For the play synopsis, dates and ticket information please see:

[www.beniciaoldtowntheatregroup.com](http://www.beniciaoldtowntheatregroup.com).

**October 29, Halloween Costume Contest and Sidewalk Stroll:** Trick-or-Treat! First Street merchants and Benicia Main Street adore kids in costume, and each year, they get into the spirit of the holiday with this popular event. Merchants decorate their storefronts and pass out candy to the kids during the stroll. And they wouldn't forget your furry friends! At noon, there will be a canine costume contest on the First Street Green with special prizes and treats for your four-legged companions. Call (707) 745-9791 for details.

**October 29, The Benicia Historical Museum Costume Ball:** Join the museum at 8 p.m. at Stone Hall, 2024 Camel Road, for their annual fundraising event! Dress in costume for an evening of fantasy, intrigue and fun, where music, food and drink await partygoers. Tickets are \$40 each or \$75 per couple and can be purchased at: Bookshop Benicia, 856 Southampton Road; Benicia Main Street, 90 First Street; Benicia Chamber of Commerce, 601 First Street, Suite 100; and the Benicia Historical Museum office, 2060 Camel Road or online at [www.beniciahistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.beniciahistoricalmuseum.org).

**October 30, Camellia Tea Room's 6th Annual Bewitching Tea:** Witches and Warlocks are invited to a traditional tea, complete with tea readings, a fashion show by Christina S. and raffle prizes and favors by Soroptimist of Benicia. This tea is a fundraiser for Safequest of Solano County and STAND of Contra Costa County. Seatings begin at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and cost \$40 per person (includes tax and gratuity). Reservations are required; please call (707) 746-5293.

## November

**November 4 - December 1, Downtown Holiday Shopping Spree:** A drawing for a Downtown Benicia Shopping Spree valued at \$500 in Downtown Dollars can be yours! For every \$10 that you spend at participating merchants between November 4 and December 1, you'll receive one ticket for the drawing. The drawing will take place on Friday, December 2, the evening of the Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting Ceremony.

**November 27 and December 4, Teddy Bear Tea Party:** Camellia Tea Room and Benicia Main Street invite you to bring your teddy bear for a traditional tea with all the trimmings. Reservations are required, by calling (707) 746-5293. This is an extremely popular event and sells out quickly, so please reserve your table and tea-time early! Reservations open October 1 for this event.



**November 28 through December 16, small works Exhibition:** Small works, an exhibit by select Arts Benicia members and other local and regional artists, will be presenting unique, first-rate work created in Benicia and the Bay Area. The exhibit will be showcasing all forms of media, appealing to a broad audience. With the December holidays fast approaching, it's a great place find one-of-a-kind gifts. Don't forget to treat yourself to a little something special, too. Arts Benicia is located at 991 Tyler Street, Suite 114, open 12 to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday.

## Winter

Benicia is a unique place to visit in the winter. The holidays are lively here, and the spirit of the season is evident around town. Here is a sampling of events coming December 2011 and January 2012:

- December 2: Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting Ceremony
- December 3: "small works" opening reception at Arts Benicia
- December 2 - 4: Lindsay Art Glass Holiday Open House
- December 1 - 4: Smyers Glass Studio Holiday Open House and Studio Sale
- December 4: Teddy Bear Tea Party
- December 10 -11: Arsenal Artists Holiday Open Studios
- December 10: Christmas Parade and Holiday Market
- December 10: Lighted Boat Parade
- January 21: Art of a Community opening reception at Arts Benicia

Winter, spring, summer or fall, Benicia stages a variety of events and attractions. We look forward to seeing you around town!

Stay tuned for upcoming newsletters and keep up-to-date at [www.visitbenica.org](http://www.visitbenica.org). Also, check out [www.facebook.com/visitbenicia](http://www.facebook.com/visitbenicia) and click "like" for more useful information about enjoying a Great Day by the Bay!