



## Visitacion's Getting Re-Paved!

Would you agree that Visitacion Ave. is due for pavement maintenance? Repaving the street also means that pavement striping of the centerline, parking lines, and crosswalks will also be redone.

Weather permitting, Visitacion Ave. from San Francisco Ave. all the way up to San Benito Rd. will be repaved in November. While exact work dates are yet to be determined, paving on Visitacion will occur in two parts: the lower part from San Francisco to Mendocino, and the upper part from Mendocino to San Benito. The phases of work that will impact the street are 1) grinding off the existing pavement and full-depth asphalt repair of any potholed areas, 2) repaving with new asphalt concrete, and 3) striping. It's estimated that each section will take four to five, possibly non-consecutive days, to complete.



Work hours will be weekdays from 8am – 5pm. Using another route, such as crossing over to San Bruno, is highly recommended. Motorists traveling on Visitacion will be directed by flaggers and should expect minor delays during times of work.

Stay tuned for more details in the Blast, on the City's social media pages, and on the signboards as the schedule is finalized. A hand-delivered notice will be delivered to residents and businesses on Visitacion before any repaving work commences so those impacted by this work will be well-aware.

## Brisbane Wins a Voice of the People Award for Excellence in Housing/Planning

The City of Brisbane has won a 2023 Voice of The People (VOP) Award for Excellence in Housing/Planning! The VOP Awards honor local governments that best engage residents and include public opinion in community decisions. This is the 15th year of the awards, presented by Polco and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).



In a time of fading public trust and polarization, community-centered governance is more important than ever.

“There are acute challenges disrupting local government today. Collaboration, resident participation, and data-informed decision-making are the only ways to solve these complex issues. These amazing communities are national models for taking on pernicious problems in government. It's why the VOP awards are so important – these organizations are making the blueprint to better democracy in an era of profound transition,” said Nick Mastronardi, CEO of Polco. “We are so excited to honor the hard work of these deserving communities.”

“Hearing from our residents when planning for housing needs in the City of Brisbane was paramount when our 2023-2031 Housing Element Update process got underway in early 2022,” said City Manager Clay Holstine. “The community's input helped guide the development of the City's Housing Element Update, and Brisbane's revised Element ended up being the second in all of the County to be certified and found compliant with State Housing Element Law.”

(continued on next page)

2 more sessions left!



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October 19, November 16, December 21

Email: [helpathand@peninsulafamilyservice.org](mailto:helpathand@peninsulafamilyservice.org)  
Phone: (650) 403-4300 ext. 4366

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[peninsulafamilyservice.org](http://peninsulafamilyservice.org)

We open doors to independence, wellness, and compassionate support for older adults.



Brisbane Wins a Voice of the People Award, continued

Many award recipients were nominated after receiving the highest or most improved ratings from residents on The National Community Survey (The NCS). The NCS is a nationwide community livability assessment with the largest database of its kind and nearly a thousand participating municipalities throughout the last 30 years. The database represents the perspectives of more than 50 million Americans, and well over 100 jurisdictions conduct the survey each year.

Other winners demonstrated outstanding online engagement or the innovative use of simulation-based technology to educate and connect with residents. The simulations, provided by Balancing Act from Polco, allow residents to show what they value most by ranking budgeting and other priorities. In our case, it was visualizing and identifying where new housing development should be prioritized in the City of Brisbane, and the appropriate density (measured by the number of dwelling units per acre of land) of new housing development.

VOP Award categories include excellence or transformation in economy, safety, natural environment, health and wellness, mobility, education, parks and recreation, utilities, housing, finance, and online engagement.

Polco, a community engagement and civic analytics technology company, presents the Voice of the People Awards in partnership with ICMA. The full list of winners was released at the 2023 ICMA Annual Conference in Austin, Texas.

Improve the Structure of your Tree and Practice Proper Pruning

by Shanna Calmes, Open Space and Ecology Committee Member & professional horticulturist

Pruning should begin when trees are young; by doing this, pruning later in the tree's lifetime can be reduced. It is much more effective for the life of the tree and for your wallet to practice proper pruning. **It is suggested to not remove more than 15 to 20% of the canopy, so it is important to prioritize cuts.** When making cuts, the limb should be removed at the collar; the collar is where the limb attaches to the tree. Cutting at this point allows the tree to form a natural protective boundary.

It is also important to remove dead and diseased branches; this helps defend against the spread of pests and diseases to prevent further damage to the tree. Removal of dead and diseased branches can really be removed at any point in the year. In a young tree, developing a single dominant leader from which branches will develop is important. Trees can produce multiple leaders which can result in greater issues further down the road. Trees should also be thinned out to remove any branches that are crossing or rubbing as this can create wounds, making the tree susceptible to diseases. Branches with a narrow attachment angle should also be evaluated for removal. As trees mature, bark becomes enclosed in the narrow crotch creating a weak joint; in the occurrence of a wind storm, that joint will easily split.

Prune in this order:

The 3 D's  
DEAD  
DAMAGED  
DISEASED (infested)

The 3 C's  
COMPETING (co-dominant) leaders  
CROSSING  
CROWDED

The 3 S's  
SAFETY  
SIGHTLINES  
SHAPE (scaffolding)

Tool Tips:

- Before getting started, be sure that your tools are clean and sharp.
- **When cutting diseased branches, it is a good idea to clean your tools between cuts & when finished to prevent spread.**
- The tools you may need will vary based on the size of the branch to be cut.
- For smaller branches, a pair of pruning shears will work. For branches up to 1.5" in diameter, lopping shears can be used.
- For larger branches, you may choose to use a hand saw or a chain saw. Pole saws can also be useful for pruning branches out of reach.
- When using these tools, it is also important to protect yourself with the proper PPE (personal protective equipment).

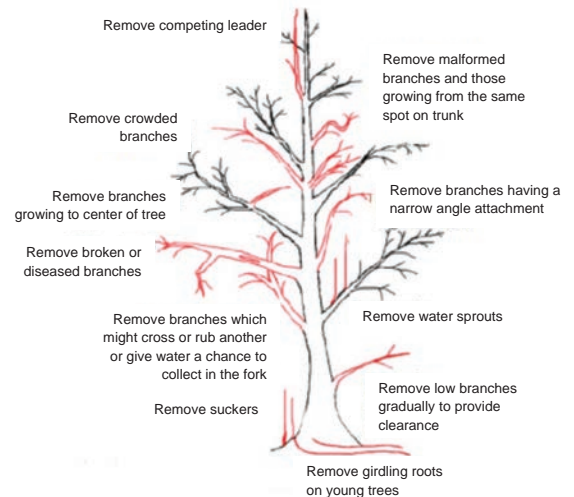


Figure 1. shows possible cuts to improve the structure of trees with red branches to be removed. Source: University of Maryland Extension.

Remember, the Annual Winter Cleanup is  
Nov. 4-5<sup>th</sup> weekend!

Brisbane's Youth Advisory Committee Presents

TEEN TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

for Seniors

Wednesdays 4pm-5pm  
at Sunrise Room



Find Us | We're Social  
DID YOU KNOW...

You can stay connected with us on Instagram and other social media outlets?



The CRC Invites you to:

# The Annual Holiday Food and Gift Distribution!



## How to Register:

Brisbane Residents

**When: Starting October 23rd, 2023**

**Where:** 1486 Huntington Ave. #100 South San Francisco, CA  
94080

**In Person:** Monday 8am-12pm & Tuesday/Thursday 12pm-4pm

**Via Phone/Email:** Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM

**crc@ymcasf.org & 650-276-4101 ext. 4**

**Requirements to Register:** Please bring your IDs, proof of address, and birth certificate/or school registration/or ID card of minors in household

### Day of the event:

- Monday Nov 20th, 2023 10AM-2PM - Fernekes Building 781 Tennis Dr. SSF
- Tuesday Dec 19th, 2023 3PM-5PM - Brisbane City Hall 50 Park Pl. Brisbane



DRIVE THRU





# Brisbane City Calendar – November 2023

The City's **Meals for Seniors Lunch Program** takes place Mondays from 12- 12:45pm outside the Senior Sunrise Room (2 Visitation Ave.) for drive-thru/walk-up pickup. In-person Senior Lunch is every Wednesday at 11:30am at the Community Center.

Brisbane's Youth Advisory Committee hosts **Teen Tech Support for Seniors** every Wednesday from 4-5pm in the Senior Sunrise Room.

The **Brisbane Farmers' Market** takes place on **Thursdays** from **3-7pm** in the Community Park (5 Old County Road, Brisbane). California Green Business, The Daisy Refillery, is there every 4th Thursday (unless otherwise noted).

See [brisbaneca.org/calendar](https://brisbaneca.org/calendar) for more information on all the above and the following items.

**Meeting Agendas** may be viewed online at [brisbaneca.org/meetings](https://brisbaneca.org/meetings) at least 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting, and at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting.

## 01, Wednesday, 6:30pm

Complete Streets Safety Committee Meeting, B

## 02, Thursday, 6:30pm

City Council Meeting, B

## 04-05, Saturday - Sunday, 10am – 3pm; 9am-1pm

Annual Winter Clean Up | [brisbaneca.org/winter-cleanup](https://brisbaneca.org/winter-cleanup)

## 08, Wednesday, 6:30pm

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, B

## 09, Thursday, 7:30pm

Planning Commission Meeting, B

## 10, Friday, All Day

City Hall Closed in Observance of Veterans Day

## 11, Saturday, Time & Location TBD (check the City's website)

United Against Hate Week Short Films Screening

## 15, Wednesday, 6pm

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accountability (IDEA) Committee Meeting

## 16, Thursday, 7:30pm

City Council Meeting, B

## 20, Monday, 4:30pm

Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting

## 23-24, Thursday - Friday, All Day

City Hall Closed in Observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday

B = Broadcast live on Comcast Ch. 27 and YouTube

## City Hall Walk-In Service Hours – 5 days/week: M, T, Th:

9am – 4pm, W: 9am-7pm, F: 9am – 12pm. Please see all

services that can be conducted online at [brisbaneca.org/online-services](https://brisbaneca.org/online-services).

Have an article suggestion for the STAR? If so, they need to be submitted by the 15th of the month for the following month's issue. Contact Asst. to the City Manager Caroline Cheung at [ccheung@brisbaneca.org](mailto:ccheung@brisbaneca.org) or (415) 508-2157 for any inquiries, as well as for any feedback on the STAR.

## You Are Missed, Dicky Wan



You may have seen his name on the signboards in late September/early October, congratulating Dicky on 35 years at USPS. Around that time, we heard from residents who recounted Dicky as an “absolute delight” and “welcome sight during Covid times” and that anytime he was behind the counter at the Brisbane Post Office, “folks smile a

bit more and any time spent in line is actually made enjoyable by his impeccable comedic timing”. Dicky touched many over the decades he worked in Brisbane, and on October 1st, Jeri and Joe Sulley hosted a picnic in the Park for him. 83 people showed to say farewell to Dicky, and we thank Jeri and Joe for providing a space for residents to do that. Dicky is still a huge fan of Brisbane...you'll see this picture of him modeling the 1961 cotton canvas tote bag on Brisbane's Etsy shop, Betsy ([brisbaneca.org/betsy](https://brisbaneca.org/betsy)), which he also took home with him after his picnic. Best wishes, Dicky, and thank you for all your years of service to the residents of Brisbane.

*Thank you!*

# Anja Miller, First Woman Elected to the Brisbane City Council, Celebrates her 90th Birthday



*Mayor Anja Miller, with Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Australia Clem Jones, in 1974. At that time Brisbane, Australia had never had a woman as mayor. So Clem Jones recommended that the Warana (spring) Festival invite Anja as the visiting celebrity!*

When Anja Miller and her husband Ray returned from a sabbatical in Finland in August 1973, a group of women politically active in Brisbane told Anja that there had been a successful recall election and that it was time for a woman to serve on the Council. They believed she was an appropriate candidate. Anja had a baccalaureate degree from the University of Helsinki in English, a career in television production, an MA in English as a second language, and a school-age daughter.

Not only did Anja get elected, but she got the most votes. In 3 months, she was elected to a 4-year term and was selected by her fellow Councilmembers as the first female mayor. She was recognized for bringing civility to the Council, negotiating the replacement of the Police Chief, and starting the process that brought a major federal grant to the City that financed the rebuilding of the entire street system. She also did a lot of networking with elected officials in the County and the State that facilitated the establishment of a County/State Park on San Bruno Mountain. She was the only Mayor in San Mateo County to endorse Jerry Brown for Governor. Consequently, when he was elected, she had easy access to the Governor and was able to personally lobby him for the essential State funds for the purchase of the land and the development of the Park.

Anja's accomplishments went beyond Brisbane. The President of Finland conferred on her the Order of the Lion for her extensive work organizing Finnish American events in the Bay Area. She



was chair of the local chapter of the Finlandia Foundation. For twelve years she served as a Trustee of the national Finlandia Foundation. And most importantly for her, she was chair of the Committee of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament that convinced the Finnish Parliament to allow Finns to have dual citizenship. Tens of thousands of Finns around the world benefited from that change in Finnish law.

On Friday the thirteenth, Anja celebrated her 90th birthday with her family and friends.

*Happy Birthday!*

A festive poster for a "Holiday Arts &amp; Crafts Fair". The background is red with white and blue decorative elements like stars, candy canes, and snowflakes. The text is white and yellow. At the top, it says "BDW's Thirteenth Annual". The main title is "Holiday Arts &amp; Crafts Fair". Below that, it says "Featuring a huge assortment of wonderful handmade items by over 30 local artists and craftspersons!". Further down, it lists "Homemade and locally-sourced sweets &amp; treats" and "Beverages • Free admission &amp; free parking!". The date and time are "Saturday • December 9 11am - 4pm". The location is "MISSION BLUE CENTER 475 Mission Blue Drive • Brisbane (Just south of SF on 101)". At the bottom, it says "For more information and artist links, visit BDWHolidayFair on Facebook".

# Brisbane's New Business License Processor for 2024

The City of Brisbane has partnered with HdL to administer the business license program commencing with the 2024 renewal season. More information on renewals will be available in late November. The City's current partner, Avenu (formerly MuniServices), will be handling business licenses through the remainder of 2023 and questions on the program should be addressed with Avenu at (866) 240-3665 or [muniblsupport@avenusights.com](mailto:muniblsupport@avenusights.com) until further notice.



## It's Never Too Late for Emergency Preparedness!

September was National Preparedness Month, but we wanted to take this opportunity to reiterate a few items for community members.

### Does the City have an emergency siren that can be used during emergencies?

Yes, but it's a vehicle-mounted Long-Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) purchased by the City's Office of Emergency Services (OES) a couple of years ago, which functions similarly to a loudspeaker, producing sound at high power for communicating at a distance. In the October STAR, you may recall an article and photos showing it being tested, which is done on a quarterly basis by the OES Director, Randy Breault. During these tests, the LRAD first emits a siren to alert residents, followed by a message that can either be pre-recorded or spoken live. Note: It may be where you need to go outside in order to hear the message clearly.

### If I'm told to evacuate, where do I go?

In the event of a mandatory evacuation, there will be instructions provided by first responders as to where to go. Of course, these instructions will depend on where the incident is taking place. For example, if there were a wildfire behind the residences on Tulare, North County Fire Authority (NCFA) would be establishing an Incident Command Post (ICP) nearby, directing Police where the fire is headed and which areas need to be evacuated. The LRAD would be deployed directing residents to evacuate. For wildfires only, North County Fire Authority has designated the Community Park as a Temporary Evacuation Point for those who would possibly be forced to evacuate on foot. Note: a walkway at approximately 78 Tulare, leading down to Santa Clara St., is in the design phase, with construction expected to start in 2025. (Construction of the Alvarado to San Benito walkway will be starting next summer).

### Where is the City's Official Residential Assembly Point?

The City of Brisbane has determined that the parking lot next to the Sierra Point Yacht Club is the community's Residential Assembly Point. This is the spot in which, in the event of an ordered evacuation, residents should gather as it is where emergency personnel will be on-site to assist you and your loved ones. Note: It's likely that from here, residents would be directed to evacuation centers that would be established, such as Skyline College or other location(s) as determined and supported by the City.

### What are all the ways in which I'll be notified about a mandatory evacuation?

Aside from the LRAD, emergency personnel such as Police officers will be knocking on doors, making it very evident should residents need to evacuate. An SMC Alert will also go out to everyone signed up to receive those text/email/phone alerts, so if you haven't yet done so, please head to [smcalert.info](http://smcalert.info) to make sure you're set up to receive those for Brisbane. Teen Technology Support takes place each Wednesday at the Sunrise Room (2 Visitacion Ave.) from 4-5pm each Wednesday if you need assistance getting signed up. City staff will also make a concerted effort to update the City's website with a sitewide banner alert, as well as the electronic signboards and City's social media pages (Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor, and Twitter).

In summary, please visit NCFA's website, [northcountyfire.org](http://northcountyfire.org) for a Wildfire Ready-Set-Go Guide and Know Your Zone where you can learn your property's zone and information should there be a need to evacuate; you can also visit the City's website at [brisbaneca.org/knowyourzone](http://brisbaneca.org/knowyourzone).



# Brisbane Library Calendar – November 2023

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Wednesday, November 1 at 2:30pm - Decorating Calaveras / Sugar Skulls

Celebrate Día de Muertos by decorating a sugar skull in this Power Up Afternoon! Then, place your calavera on your ofrenda at home in honor of a departed loved one. Registration required at [brisbaneca.org/smcl](https://brisbaneca.org/smcl)

### Wednesday, November 8 at 2:30pm – Mason Jar Terrarium Craft

During this Power Up Afternoon you will create your own little Mason jar terrarium. Landscape it with rocks and moss and plant a small succulent to take home.

### Friday, November 10, at 11am - Words in Motion: Techniques to Defeat Writer's Block

In one hour, you will learn tips and techniques for busting through writer's block and how to refine your writing craft. Intended for adults and teens, register at [brisbaneca.org/smcl](https://brisbaneca.org/smcl)

### Friday, November 17 at 1:30pm - Native American Beading Craft

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month in this Power Up Afternoon! Sew beads together like Rosette Medallions, made for Native American attire. Registration required at [brisbaneca.org/smcl](https://brisbaneca.org/smcl)

### Saturday, November 18, 11am – 12:00 pm - Decorating Holiday Ornaments

Explore your artistic side and paint holiday ornaments! All supplies will be provided. This program is intended for adults age 18+; register at [brisbaneca.org/smcl](https://brisbaneca.org/smcl)

### Tuesday, November 21, 1pm – 3pm - Senior Surf: Navigating the Internet

Learn how to navigate the internet and websites, use a web browser effectively and utilize search engines to find information quickly. Seize this opportunity to become a proficient internet traveler. Registration required at [brisbaneca.org/smcl](https://brisbaneca.org/smcl)

**Keep an eye out for more fun events that we're planning to bring to Brisbane Library at [smcl.org](https://smcl.org)!**

## RECURRING EVENTS

### Mondays from 12pm-1pm & Thursdays from 6:30pm-7:30pm – Tech Tutors

Tech Tutors is a service to help troubleshoot your technology issues through a personal one on one appointment. Participants will sit down with a staff member who will walk you through a resolution. To book your one-hour appointment, please visit: [smcl.libcal.com/appointments/techtutors](https://smcl.libcal.com/appointments/techtutors)

### Mondays at 6:30pm – Yoga

Interested in learning how to do yoga or already have a practice, and want to join others in your community? Please bring your own towel or mat. Space is limited. Register at [brisbaneca.org/smcl](https://brisbaneca.org/smcl)

### Tuesdays at 11:30am – Family Storytime & Little Explorers

Come along on an imaginary adventure for Family Storytime. Hear stories, sing songs, and learn wiggles that the whole family can enjoy together, from toddlers to grown-ups. At Stay and Play, Little Explorers create, play and learn together with their grown-ups.

### Wednesdays at 6pm – Tai Chi

Learn about the Chen-style Taijiquan (Tai Chi) form, Silk-reeling Exercises and Wuji Qigong. Chen-style Taijiquan is widely acknowledged as the ancestor of all other styles of Taijiquan.

### Thursdays at 11:30am - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time

Bring your bouncing baby to our weekly playtime, full of nursery rhymes and songs you can do together to stimulate your baby's development. Ideal for newborns up to 18 months old.

### Thursdays at 2:30pm - Drop-In Sewing

Complete your sewing project at the library! We have sewing machines and materials ready and available for you to use. Please bring your own fabric. This program is for adults and teens who are familiar with using sewing machines. Minimal instructions will be given.

## POWER UP AFTERNOONS

Join us for Power Up Afternoons!

Take a study break to relax with free-form art or experience hands-on STEAM activities.

### Mondays at 3:30pm – Maker Monday

Discover what you can make using our library maker tools. Sometimes techy, sometimes crafty, always fun!

### Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 3:30pm – Maker Exploration

During this two-hour block, come and explore the equipment in the makerspace!

### Thursdays at 3:30pm - Lego Club

Join us every Thursday for LEGOs and creativity!

The Brisbane Library will be closed November 11 - 12 for Veterans Day, close early at 5pm on Wednesday, November 22 and remain closed Thursday and Friday, November 23 – 24 for Thanksgiving.



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## 2023 Day in the Park and Derby Recap

It was quite the scorcher on October 7th, so we thank those who made it to this year's Day in the Park! There were over 30 booths, comprised of community organizations, businesses, and arts and craft vendors, providing a diverse range of goods and information to attendees. Hats off to our 2023 Derby Winners!



### 6-8 yr. old category:

- 1st – Luke Larson
- 2nd – Finnley McCurdy



### 9-12 yr. old category:

- 1st – Tommy Bouchard
- 2nd – Logan Pavone

Congratulations also to Navya (Bravest Driver), Reya (Best Sportsperson), Calla (Best-Looking Car), and Finnley (Dan Sorrentino Spirit Award). This last award was given in honor of the late Dan Sorrentino, who year after year helped the youth build their cars at multiple Derby Car Building Workshops leading up to the event, and always exuded tremendous enthusiasm and spirit.



Dan Carter claimed victory in the first-ever Adult Big Wheel Race in Brisbane! This unique event added a layer of excitement to the derby course.



### Pie Baking Contest –

Another new addition to the event, the pie baking contest, featured participants submitting pies for judging by a panel of seven judges. The

winner was Dariusz Wodziak, whose citrus meringue pie duly impressed the judges. Carol Karunadevi Forrest secured a very close second place with her incredible lattice-topped apple pear pie. Parks and Recreation Commissioner Leesa Greenlee led the baking competition.



### Pie Eating Contest – Mason

Fioresi emerged as the champion in the pie-eating competition, earning a first-place ribbon for his impressive performance.

**Youth Volunteer of the Year** - Sagar Rajan was honored with the Youth Volunteer of the Year award, marking only the second time in Brisbane's history that a youth has



received this recognition. The Volunteer of the Year Award will be announced at the Festival of Lights, taking place on December 3rd!

 See more photos and a video shot by Parks and Recreation Commissioner Tom Seawell in the 10/11 and 10/18 Blasts at [brisbaneca.org/blast](http://brisbaneca.org/blast)

