



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

August 7, 2019

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Garrett Toy, Town Manager *GT*

SUBJECT: Receive report on fire inspections, Chipper Days 2019, and goat vegetation management efforts

RECOMMENDATION

Receive report

DISCUSSION

Over the past two year, the Town, in conjunction with Ross Valley Fire Department (RVFD), has been working to reduce wildfire hazards and improve fire-safety awareness. Specifically, for FY19-20, the Town has budgeted to expand the RVFD Defensible Space Inspection Program, the Town's Chipper Days, and Town's vegetation management activities. The following is a status update of these activities:

- Approved \$46,000 in funding to expand the Defensible Space Inspection Program operated by the Ross Valley Fire Department. Under this expanded program, which started in May, RVFD initially estimated it would be able to inspect approximately 1,800 properties in Fairfax.

To date, RVFD reports it has inspected approximately 900 properties in the Fairfax Deer Park, Cascade Canyon, and Oak Manor Firewise neighborhoods. RVFD is planning to inspect another 1,400 (approx.) properties in the Tamalpais and Forrest (Fairfax/San Anselmo) neighborhoods.

- Coordinated with RVFD the evacuation drill conducted on June 29th in the Cascade neighborhood.
- Allocated \$50,000 for Firesafe Marin to use goats and machinery to clear brush in specific open space areas like the Elliot Preserve, Jolly Hill, and Ridgeway (see pictures). Firesafe Marin has almost completed its vegetation management activities.
- Expanded our Chipper Days program to make clearing brush from around your home, easier than ever. This year we have scheduled 8 chipper days. In the recently held Chipper Days for Cascade Canyon and Manor Hill Firewise communities, we collected approximately 25 tons (50,000 lbs.) of brush and scheduled 150 pick-up appointments. The data for the recently conducted Chipper Days for the Deer Park Firewise neighborhood and the general town-wide Chipper Days is unavailable at this time.

The remaining chipper days is scheduled August 10 – Doc Edgar Park 9 a.m. – 3p.m.

It should be noted that staff used both Youth2work and private contractors to provide Chipper Day services. Youth2work performed the Chipper Day services for July 13, 14, 20, and 21st. However, Youth2 work indicated that the Chipper Day events have become more complex than their operation can support and they have decided they can no longer perform the required services. For the Deer Park and August 3rd Chipper Days we used a private contractor. The demand for services has required staff to contract for additional days to pick-up materials that could not be chipped on the scheduled days. We estimate the Town will spend approximately \$70,000 on Chipper Days (budgeted \$90,000).

- Staff is currently assessing the clearance of brush along Center Blvd. from Pastori to the Town Limits.

We have invited RVFD and Firesafe Marin to attend the next Council meeting to provide a brief presentation on the status of their activities. Staff will also report back to the Council on the final Chipper Day results.

FISCAL IMPACT

For FY19-20, the Town budgeted a total of \$190,000 for the above activities.

ATTACHMENT

Pictures