

# Fairfax Update

News from around Town...



## July 2019

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### Town Council Meeting Update

At the July 17th Council meeting the Town Council discussed two key issues, Cannabis Ordinances and 5G. They also approved the Town Budget for fiscal year 2019/20

### Proposed Cannabis Regulations

At its July 17th meeting, the Town Council considered an ordinance establishing cannabis regulations and another ordinance to regulate cannabis business permits. After a lengthy discussion, the Council requested all the items be brought back to the August 7th meeting for consideration.

During its deliberations, a majority of the Council requested revisions to the buffer zone setbacks from certain type of uses. For medical storefront retailers, a 600-foot setback buffer would be retained from schools and youth centers and a reduced 300-foot setback buffer would be required from tutoring centers, preschools, and day care centers. For a delivery-only businesses, a 250-foot setback buffer is required from schools and youth centers and no buffer is required from day-care centers or tutoring centers.

The other key provisions of the proposed ordinance governing cannabis regulations remained the same as proposed:

1. Allows adult-use delivery-only retail businesses.
2. Continues to allow medical storefront/delivery businesses.
3. Establishes a maximum of two business locations for any combination of medical storefront/delivery and/or adult-use delivery-only businesses in Town. The existing medical marijuana dispensary and it's adult-use delivery-only

businesses would count as one of the two locations.

4. Sets a limit of up to 6 cannabis plants (allowed under state law) for non-commercial, personal cultivation per residence, whether grown indoors or outdoors. However, outdoor cultivation shall not exceed 6 plants per lot, regardless of the number of residences on the lot. The ordinance would allow individuals to apply for a "medical cannabis administrative exception" for up to a maximum of ten plants.

The Council did not make any further revisions to the proposed ordinance establishing a commercial cannabis business permit process. The proposed ordinance creates the application review process and allows the Town to retain full discretion on whether or not to approve any applications.

The Council will consider both ordinances at its August 7th meeting.

To read the full [Staff Report](#) and attachments please see the agenda packet for the [July 17 Council Meeting](#), item 15.

### **Permanent Wireless Telecommunication Facilities Ordinance (5-G)**

At its July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, after several public meetings, the Town Council introduced the permanent ordinance to replace the urgency ("interim") ordinance adopted by the Council in September of 2018. The key provisions of this ordinance are:

- Prohibits wireless telecommunication facilities (WCF)'s in the public right-of-way and private property in residential, public domain (e.g. schools, town hall), or open area zones.
- Requires a minimal distance of 1,500 between small cell facilities.
- Establishes design and installation standards.
- Establishes an application process.
- Allows WCF's only in commercial zones, except for the commercial recreation zone
- Requires public noticing for all applications
- Provides maximum latitude to the independent expert as to how and when monitoring is done
- Requires new WCF's to be located a minimum of 50 feet from all residences and a minimum 300 feet from child day care centers, schools, playgrounds, parks, ball fields, and medical facilities
- Prohibits wireless telecommunications facilities on ridge lines.
- Prohibits the mounting any and all hardware or antennas on decorative light poles except as a replacement pole that

matches the existing decorative light poles in the vicinity

The Town is also a member of a cities/public agencies coalition that is challenging the FCC's ruling in the U.S. 9<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals.

To read the full [Staff Report](#) and attachments please see the agenda packet for the [July 17 Council Meeting](#), item 17.

### **FY19-20 Town Operating and Capital Budget**

The Council approved the proposed FY19-20 Operating and Capital Improvement budget at the July 17th meeting. The budget is \$13.7 million of which \$10.7 million is allocated for general fund operations (e.g., Police, Fire), \$1.9 million for the capital improvement program (CIP), and \$1.1 million for special fund expenses/debt service.

To read the full [Staff Report](#) and attachments please see the agenda packet for the [July 17 Council Meeting](#), item 12.

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### **Boards and Commissions Vacancies**

Serving on a board or committee is a rewarding way to get involved in and serve your community, as well as make new friends. Fairfax currently has vacancies on the following Boards and Commissions:

Climate Action Committee  
Open Space Committee  
Tree Committee

To learn more about these committees or to apply please [go to our website](#).

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### **Fire Safety**

With the dry season comes the higher risk of fire. Ross Valley Fire Chief Jason Weber, who also is the Marin County Fire Chief, states that the recent house fire on Crest Road serves as "a reminder of the importance of defensible space, which could have reduced the footprint of this fire and decreased the threat of the blaze spreading to neighboring properties." Please remember fire safety is a community effort.

We all need to be prepared in case of a fire. We are happy to say that our new website is a resource for all of our residents. You can sign up for alerts, learn about starting a Fire Wise neighborhood group and connect with Fire Safe Marin and our local fire department.

Over the past two year, the Town, in conjunction with Ross Valley Fire Department, has been working to reduce wildfire hazards and improve fire-safety awareness. Specifically, for FY19-20, the Town has:

- Approved \$46,000 in funding to expand the Defensible Space Inspection Program operated by the Ross Valley Fire Department (RVFD). Under this expanded program, which started in May, RVFD estimates it will be able to inspect 1,800 properties in Fairfax.
- Coordinated the evacuation drill conducted on June 29<sup>th</sup> for the Cascade neighborhood, with RVFD.
- Allocated \$40,000 for Firesafe Marin to use goats to clear brush in specific open space areas like the Elliot Preserve.
- 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 from those neighborhoods. We estimate the Town will spend approximately \$50,000 - 60,000 total on Chipper Days.

The remaining chipper days are:

July 27 & 28 – Deer Park parking lot 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

August 3- Pavilion parking lot 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

August 10 – Doc Edgar Park 9 a.m. – 3p.m.

Please go to the Town website for more information on Chipper Day requirements and the availability of pick-up services.

*Also, please note that you are welcome to bring your cleared brush to any day on the schedule, you do not need to wait for your neighborhood Chipper Day.*



Goats on Ridgeway.



Goats on the hill behind Bennett House.

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## Summer Events

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### Creek Clean Up

July 27th - 10am

Fairfax Community Center - 16 Park Road

Join us in front of the Community Center, for a brief presentation by Sara Labberton of the Marin Municipal Water District. She will be speaking on the various species that use the creek as their habitat, and what we can do to help protect their environment. Following that, we will head out to the creek area behind Peri Park to pick up litter and recyclables. Please wear closed toe shoes. Gloves will be provided. Refreshments will be served. Sponsored by the Fairfax Volunteers. For more info, contact [mbaird@townoffairfax.org](mailto:mbaird@townoffairfax.org)



### Music in the Park

Free Sunday Concerts in Peri Park

3pm

Dates listed below

# Music in the Park

SUMMER 2019 / FREE SUNDAY CONCERTS  
Redwood Stage in Peri Park, Fairfax CA / All ages welcome

All concerts  
start at 3 p.m.

## July

7

BARAKA  
MOON

*Sufi trance  
grooves*

14

SON DE  
LA BAHIA

*traditional  
music from  
Veracruz, Mexico*

21

JERRY  
HANNAN

*singer/  
songwriter*

## August

11

THOMPSONIA

*America's  
acoustic roots*

18

MC BOYZ

*Americana/Irish*

25

GOLDEN GATE  
BRASS BAND

*Brass ensemble*



Sponsored by Fairfax Chamber of Commerce & Town of Fairfax  
Music Director Kyle Alden | Poster Art Michael Feldman | Graphics Tern Communications



## Camp Fairfax

July 29th - August 16th  
Fairfax Community Center

Camp Fairfax starts next week! Another summer of fun in your own backyard! Weeks 2 and 3 are almost full but we have space in Week 1 - if you are interested in a spot, we will waive the late fee.

Go to the website for more information about registration [Camp Fairfax!](#)

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