

Fairfax Update

Special Edition

During this crisis, the Town will be sending out weekly newsletters with reminders and updates on Covid-19 and Town services.



April 10, 2020

Community Message from the Mayors' of Marin County

The Mayors' of Marin County want to share a message of support and collaboration with the community. [Watch the video here.](#)

Building and Planning Services Coronavirus Health Order and Restrictions on Construction

On March 31, 2020, the Marin County Health Officer extended the shelter-in-place order ("Public Health Order") through May 3, 2020. Among changes made are additional restrictions placed on construction activities. With the exception of "essential" construction, most existing construction activities are suspended in order to reduce travel and human exposure consistent with the Public Health Order.

Essential construction is defined as:

1. Projects immediately necessary to the maintenance, operation or repair of Essential Infrastructure, such as telecommunications, utilities, public transportation;
2. Projects associated with Healthcare Operations, including creating or expanding Healthcare Operations, provided that such construction is directly related to the COVID-19 response;
3. Affordable housing that is or will be income-restricted, including multi-unit or mixed-use developments containing at least 10%

- income-restricted units;
4. Public works projects if specifically designated as an Essential Governmental Function by the lead governmental agency, such as road or facility repair necessary to maintain functionality of the road or facility;
 5. Shelters and temporary housing, but not including hotels or motels;
 6. Projects immediately necessary to provide critical non-commercial services to individuals experiencing homelessness, elderly persons, persons who are economically disadvantaged, and persons with special needs;
 7. Construction necessary to ensure that existing construction sites that must be shut down under this Order are left in a safe and secure manner, but only to the extent necessary to do so; and
 8. Construction or repair necessary to ensure that residences and buildings containing Essential Businesses are safe, sanitary, or habitable to the extent such construction or repair cannot reasonably be delayed.

[Visit our website for FAQs](#) about construction during the Stay at Home Order. And the services that our Building and Planning Department is still able to provide during the Stay at Home Order.



Face Covering Recommendations

In response [to new guidance](#) from the California Department of

Public Health, the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Bay Area health officials are recommending that residents cover their nose and mouth when leaving home for essential travel, such as doctor appointments, grocery shopping or pharmacy visits. Coverings are most effective when used in combination with current strategies, such as social distancing, frequent hand washing, and not touching your face (or mask).

Face coverings should be washed after each use with detergent and hot water and dried on a hot cycle. Resident face coverings do not have to be hospital grade but do need to cover the nose and mouth. Home-sewn fabric coverings, bandanas, a "DIY" mask from an old t-shirt and neck gaiters are examples of acceptable face coverings, especially because they can be washed and worn again.

[Visit our Face Covering Information page](#) to learn more about the order, find links to how to make a fabric mask and how to donate a fabric mask to a resident in need.

[Here is a great article](#) about what kind of face covering is best for this pandemic.

Please do not make Non-Essential Travel to Marin County Parks and Open Space Areas

It is great to get outside, but do so near your home. Walk or bike, but do not drive/park unless displaying a valid disabled person parking placard or license plate. The County of Marin has indicated it will fine violators. [Learn more.](#)

Update on Parks Closures: If you plan to use parks and outdoor space in upcoming days, please make sure you know the new rules so you may stay in compliance. [Learn more.](#)

Fairfax Businesses -- Ready to Serve You

The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce has set up a [webpage](#) to keep you up to date on who's open, who's closed, and who's changing their services to best serve customers. Support our local businesses!

Jobs -- See Who is Hiring!

During these challenging times, with so many businesses closed, there are some segments of the business community that need extra help. Career Points North Bay has an ever growing list of open jobs. [Check out the list here.](#)



Fairfax Program to Match Local Residents in Need with Volunteers to Assist Them

The Town's 1-to-1 volunteer matching service to support and protect people in need during this difficult time is going strong. The program is going strong and was featured in the [Marin IJ](#) and [KTVU news](#).

If you are a **resident** who needs extra help to get through this time, or a resident willing to volunteer to help, please click [here](#).

Virtual Meetings

To protect the health of the public, staff, and Council members, and consistent with the shelter orders, the public meetings in April and May will be virtual. The public can [watch the meetings live online here](#) and on TV Comcast Ch 27, AT&T Ch 99, and via Zoom, but not in-person.

The public will be able to comment remotely either electronically or by phone. For more details on how to make a public comment during the meeting, see the [Council Agenda for the April 15th](#) meeting.

Town Council Meeting April 15th at 7pm

Planning Commission Meeting April 16th at 7pm

Fairfax Board and Committee Meetings

These meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Delaying Payment of Rents and Resources for Housing Needs

On March 24, the Marin County Board of Supervisors approved an emergency resolution to prevent residents and business owners from being evicted because of a sudden loss of income related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This ban is in effect countywide in every city, town, and unincorporated area of Marin County and lasts until May 31, 2020, unless extended by the Board of Supervisors.

- Applies to residential tenants or commercial small business lease holder that has not made a timely rent payment due on or after March 24, 2020.
- Renters and commercial lease holders must notify their landlord within 30 days after the rent is due that they are unable to pay because of financial impacts related to COVID-19.
- A landlord may seek payment of unpaid rent after the expiration of the local emergency, but may not charge late fees. For More Information and sample language for renters to use to notify their landlords, see [Marin County's website](#).

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Marin Health and Human Services has launched the [Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#) for people who are at risk of homelessness and need rental assistance to prevent eviction due to a loss of income from the COVID-19 pandemic.

For anyone seeking assistance please call 415-473-7191 or email covid-19@marincounty.org.

More information and resources are available on the [Housing First website](#).

The County has also teamed up with nonprofit MCF to create a \$1 million fund to assist vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 response in order to address urgent needs for local residents. The fund will be allocated over the next two months to soften the social and economic impacts of the pandemic, including emergency rental assistance, food, wi-fi mobile access, and emergency childcare. For more information, [click here](#).

Sign Up to Receive Updates From the Town

We encourage residents and businesses to [sign-up/subscribe](#) to receive a variety information from the Town such as newsletters, Town Council agendas, and updates on such projects as Marinda Heights. Just pick the ones you want to receive.

Town of Fairfax COVID-19 Resources Page

We have set up a dedicated webpage: www.townoffairfax.org/coronavirus-updates-resources to

update our community on the latest developments related to COVID-19 in Fairfax, and provide you with resources including links to [Marin County Public Health](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control](#), and the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce.

Join Our Mailing List

Join our Facebook page for regular updates throughout the month!

