

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 3, 2020

A Letter from the Mayor

Dear Fairfax Community,

As we near the end of the 3rd week of the now extended 'shelter in place' order, I want to share 2 quotes which have helped lift my spirits and provided me a direction forward.

"Social distancing does not mean social isolation", and "Sheltering in place does not mean disengagement".

The six foot physical distancing mandate challenges us to find other ways to stay close and connected, and Fairfax is rising to the occasion.

Our community is stepping up with 'Only In Fairfax' style creativity and caring. As of today, 113 people, many of them High School and College students wanting to give back, are participating in our 1 to 1 Volunteer Matching Program, and have been partnered with people who have reached out for help. We are deeply committed to connecting people and assuring that no one is left feeling isolated and alone. Other communities in Marin have asked for our advice and thankfully are implementing similar programs.

If you would like to volunteer or you are someone in need of assistance, [please click here to sign up](#).

As I communicate with Fairfax residents, I am deeply inspired by people's strength in these times.

Parents of school aged children have stepped up overnight to double

as homeschool teachers.

Our teachers and school administrators are reinventing curriculum, distributing digital devices and working to provide equitable access to technology, as well as covering students basic needs such as meals for students who receive 'free and reduced' subsidies.

The Fairfax PD and Ross Valley Fire personnel are working the front lines and educating the public, as well as responding to emergencies, and as always they are offering support in response to resident's needs.

Fairfax town staff are doing the business of the town while working from home with only 2 staff members allowed in Town Hall at a time. I am deeply grateful for their flexibility, seamless transition to a new way of getting things done, with no essential town services slipping through the cracks.

Our restaurants have found ways to provide delicious take out meals and are offering free delivery. [PLEASE SUPPORT THEM!](#)

It is harder for our shops to do business, so please do some online shopping or purchase gift cards.

Profound gratitude is due to the grocery stores and especially the clerks who come to work and face customers despite the risk of exposure.

Finally, to the healthcare workers in our community, your courage to go to work everyday in order to protect our health is a selfless act of service and we are forever in your debt.

We are all in this together like never before, and the degree to which we obey the shelter in place and distancing orders will determine how quickly we are able to flatten the curve. We each have an obligation to act in the best interest of the whole community.

Please stay at home except to grocery shop, purchase essentials and exercise. On April 2nd, the regional recommendation from Public Health, is to wear a face cover when you do go out. We are told to "STAY IN place and maintain space" We are so lucky to have such a beautiful place to STAY IN. Please be well!

Renee Goddard
Mayor, Town of Fairfax

Physical Distancing means standing 6 feet apart

(which is the standard length of a dog leash!)



*Distancing from your furry friend not required.
The information presented is for illustrative purposes only.

marinhhs.org/coronavirus



New Stay-at-Home Order Issued

Health officers in seven Bay Area jurisdictions – including Marin County — updated and extended the previous stay-at-home order through May 3, 2020 in order to preserve critical hospital capacity across the region.

The [new stay-at-home order](#) will supersede the [previous order](#) and went into effect at 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31. It is a complement to the indefinite statewide stay-at-home order issued by Gov. Gavin Newsom earlier this month.

New Face Mask 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. Face covering should be worn anytime a person is outside of their home, even in offices of essential businesses. 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 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.

Emotional Support Resources

Fears about the coronavirus pandemic and being socially isolated can significantly affect mental health. Whether you have a mental illness or are just feeling stressed, anxious or overwhelmed, it's important to do what you can to support yourself and get help with

you need it.

Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations, but taking care of yourself, your friends, and your family can help you cope. Here are some general tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Alliance on Mental Illness:

- Take care of your body. Critical self-care activities are sleep, physical exercise and a healthy diet. Avoid alcohol and drugs.
- Be mindful of your news consumption. Take breaks from watching, reading or listening to news stories, including social media. And, limit your sources to one or two reliable sources, like the CDC or Marin Public Health.
- Find things to do. Do activities that you enjoy or that are distracting. Music, movies, gardening, art, journaling and cleaning are all great outlets.
- Connect with or help others. Talk with people you trust about your well-being. You can chat via phone or video. Finding a way to help others might make you feel better.

Staying emotionally connected as a community even if we temporarily become more physically isolated is critical to everyone's mental health. Online and phone support is available through the **National Distress Helpline**, a free service to connect with a trained crisis counselor (available in English and Spanish).

- Phone: 1-800-985-5990
- Text "TalkWithUs" to 66746 (English)
- Text "Hablanos" al 66746 (español)
- TTY (for hard of hearing): 1-800-846-8517

Additional phone support options and self-care resources are available on the Marin Health & Human Services [Behavioral Health and Recovery Services webpage](#).

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!



HOW TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK



1) BUY GIFT CARDS

Support small business owners by buying gift cards to use once they are back in business.

2) ORDER TAKE-OUT

Even though many of your local small businesses aren't seating customers, they might still be offering take-out or delivery. Maybe even tip a little extra if you can!



3) SHOP ONLINE

A lot of small businesses are still offering online sales. If you want to support local boutiques, try shopping their website.



4) GET INTO CROWDFUNDING

A lot of businesses are having crowdfunding campaigns to pay their workers and stay afloat. Consider donating if you can.



5) STOCK UP LOCALLY

Instead of hitting up large chains to stock up on necessities, check your local small businesses first for food and supplies.



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.

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.

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](#).

Town Facilities and Parks Closed

Since Monday, March 16, all Town facilities have been closed to the public, with a shift in services, where possible, to online and phone. For more information about what services are available [please visit our website](#).

Peri Park Playground, the tennis, basket ball and bocce ball courts are closed due to the order from the Health Department. Peri Park, Bolinas Park, & Doc Edgar Park are open to the public, but please remember to maintain social distancing.

The County has closed all parks to motorized access. However, the County indicates it is ok for community members to walk or bike through their local trail or park site to get to open space as long as they are observing social distancing.

For more clarification, visit the [Marin County Parks](#) shelter in place info page regarding County parks.

Fairfax Police

The Police Department is open 24/7 as always. However, the Police Lobby is closed to the public. For non-essential services, please call Dispatch at 415-453-5330 and they will assist you by phone instead of in-person.

Town Council and Planning Commission 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 and AT&T Ch 99, but not in-person. To make a public comment during the meeting, you will be able to send your comment in real time to staff, who will read it out loud at the meeting. The usual 3-minute time limit per comment applies, so staff will only read as much of the emailed comment as can be read in 3 minutes. Stay tuned for more details.

Fairfax Board and Committee Meetings

These meetings are cancelled until further notice. (This does not include the Town Council and Planning Commission.)

Planning and Building – Limited Services

The Town is not issuing permits for non-essential projects under the 3/31/20 shelter-in-place order.

Please contact Building Official Mark Lockaby to discuss your application, confirm eligibility for filing, and to make arrangements for permit issuance and inspections. mlockaby@townoffairfax.org or (415) -458-2370.

For Planning services such as applying for a new residence, Accessory Dwelling Unit, Junior Accessory Dwelling Unit, or other Essential Construction project, please contact Planning Director Ben Berto bberto@townoffairfax.org or Principal Planner Linda Neal lneal@townoffairfax.org for information.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we continue through this challenging period. The Town is working towards restoring full customer service.

Fairfax Branch of the Marin County Library

The library is closed but you can still visit them online to access digital books, media, videos, TV, and more. Check it out! www.marinlibrary.org/access-the-library-from-home

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.

Marin County COVID-19 Hotline and Public Health Email

Call: 415-473-7191

Email: COVID-19@marincounty.org

Join Our Mailing List

Join our Facebook page for regular updates throughout the month!

