

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.



May 23, 2020

A Message to the Community from Mayor Goddard

Dear Fairfax Community,

I have 3X5 index card thumb tacked to the bulletin board in my kitchen...it reads: "Assume Benevolence".

I wrote it a long time ago, in pencil in my scribble, on a faded salmon colored card, and it catches my eye every time I walk by. I've grown to use it as a cue to pause and reflect upon the difference between what I actually know and what assumptions I make based on what I think I know.

We are entering the 11th week under the Shelter In Place order. There is a tremendous amount of information both Scientific and anecdotal, and great anticipation about what to expect with the June 1st order. There is community wide fear for our own physical and emotional health and financial stability, and that coupled with concern about the survival of our businesses, and what feels like insurmountable unknowns, has brought us to what I consider a tipping point. It is easy to react with anger when we encounter people who disobey the orders and easy to make sweeping judgements about the way we are each choosing to behave even amongst members of the same family and groups of friends and neighbors.

Never before has it been more important to "Assume

Benevolence". It opens doors for communication that our judgements slam tight. At this point our choice of words and actions are vital to one another's wellbeing.

We carefully consider our words when we apply for a job, write college essays, suffer over love letters, and it seems that every single word carries the weight of the world or has the power to completely change the essence of the intended message. We have this kind of power in our choice of words and choice of follow up actions. I have observed over the past weeks that despite having half of our faces covered and our mouths muffled, there is a an easier more honest and compassionate exchange of words taking place. I'm noticing it on Zoom calls, in line at the grocery store, or walking past someone downtown. This is the desired trajectory and the path forward depends on each of us treading carefully, considering each of our vulnerabilities.

The tag line which is pervasive in both the local and global response to Covid-19 pandemic is "We are in this together".

If we pause, assume that Fairfax is a puzzle and each piece a unique shape and size only complete if each piece is joined, it is easy to see that we are all equally important in determining the final picture. We are not whole if anyone is left behind for any reason.

Fairfax has always been a community that sets a high bar. We are awake, involved and we rise to the occasion. We choose the 7,555 piece puzzle and with impassioned public opinion and active participation we come out with a complete picture, thankfully it is often not exactly the one on the box top.

We are all suffering from human interaction deficit disorder, but right now the health of our populace depends on each of us working in cooperation. We will not wish this away. If we choose to do as we've always done, we will delay and fracture our ability to put the pieces back together in a new, healthier and more synergistic picture of community.

We will get through this and emerge stronger. In this poignant moment in time we have unprecedented opportunity to bring community together and galvanize us to take action.

Where do you fit in the Fairfax puzzle? Trim, Corner, Middle.... and what does that look like?

Please let me know. rgoddard@townoffairfax.org

There is a place for everyone!

Renee Goddard

Mayor of Fairfax

**Special Town Council Meeting:
Presentation on the Use of Outdoor Spaces to Assist
Downtown Businesses
Wednesday, May 27, 6-8pm**

Presentation by John Bela, Fairfax Resident and Director/Partner Gehl Studio in San Francisco, followed by public input and Q&A. As the economy reopens it will do so with social distancing requirements. It will be difficult for businesses to operate and serve anywhere close to their pre-COVID customer numbers in the existing footprint of their facilities. The creation of an area in front of downtown businesses to add to that business's operating space might help them showcase their wares or seat and serve a larger number of customers even given distancing requirements.

The presentation is meant to inspire and help our community think outside the box. The discussion will be an opportunity to receive suggestions and input from the community about a Fairfax approach to ensure the survival of our vibrant downtown businesses.

[For more details on how to participate, click here](#)

Fairfax Small Business Storefront Recovery Fund

As part of its COVID-19 response, the Fairfax Small Business Storefront Recovery Fund has been created by the Town of Fairfax in partnership with the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, and the County of Marin. The goal of this fund is to offer storefront businesses with financial aid in the form of small grants during this pandemic.

Information and applications for the grant will be available on the Town website starting May 26th.



Planning Commission & Community Meeting
OBJECTIVE DESIGN + DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS
May 27th 6:30-8pm

We would like to invite you to attend a virtual workshop hosted by Opticos to discuss Objective Design and Development Standards. The County of Marin, in collaboration with ten other Marin jurisdictions, has retained Opticos, to develop an Objective Design and Development Standards (ODDS) tool kit for residential development in Marin. This toolkit of standards is intended to provide a clear review and approval process. This will also ensure that design and aesthetic of developments address topics such as architectural style while accommodating current and future legislation requirements. Communities such as Fairfax, will be able to pick and choose, as well as tailor the standards to fit the character of its community. Public participation is strongly encouraged.

[Click here to find out how to participate in the meeting.](#)

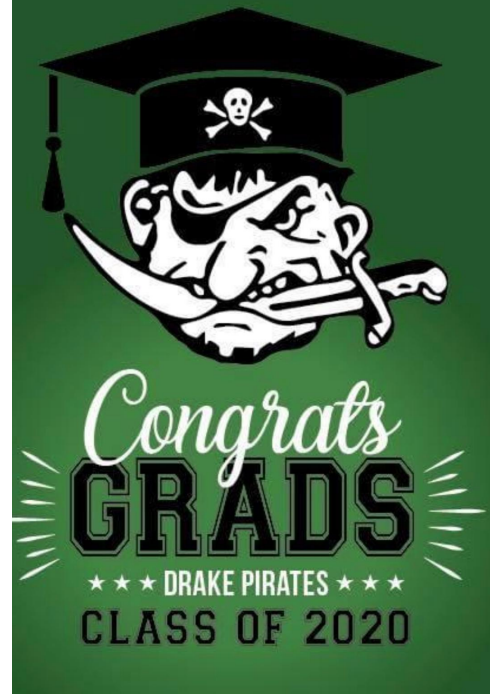
Going Green for Drake Grads Class of 2020

Drake High School invites our entire community to show love for our seniors by decorating their houses in Pirate-Style. They will have Drake flags available on June 1st across the community. What decorations flow from this flag across the yards, windows and garages of the Pirate Community is yet to be seen. Residents are encouraged to decorate homes as creatively as

possible! 'think Halloween, but Green!'

It is going to be amazing show of support and Pirate love!

This starts June 1st and grows progressively more GREEN as we approach June 12th graduation!!



Upcoming Events

Fairfax Community Farmers Market is Back!

Every Wednesday
Bolinas Park
4-8pm

The market started the first week of May and runs through mid October! Of course there will be safety measures in place to keep the farmers and the community safe.

[Click here to learn more about the Fairfax Community Market!](#)

Fairfax Chipper Days Scheduled for this Summer!

The Town will once again be offering chipper days during the summer months. The schedule is as follows:

June 20 & 21 9-3 Cascade neighborhood Doc Edgar Park

June 27 & 28 9-3 Scenic/Manor Hill neighborhood Olema & Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

July 11 9-3 Downtown - Pavilion parking lot

July 25 & 26 Deer Park - collection to be done at Doc Edgar Park

The availability of pick up service will be determined at a later date. Please [check website](#) for updates.

Vigilance Needed to Fend Off COVID-19 Scammers

In this time of sheltering and isolation, more older adults are learning how to use technology and are vulnerable to deceiving offers. The County of Marin's [Financial Abuse Specialist Team](#) (FAST) is reminding older adults and others to be vigilant against scammers and learn more about cybersecurity practices.

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](#).

Wondering Which Businesses Are Open?

Discover who is open for delivery, curbside pick up and more on the new and easy-to-use website: www.fairfaxopenforbusiness.com, where you can also join an email list to receive specials and updates.

Marin Recovers Website

Marin County has launched a new online resource to provide residents with step-by-step guidance on the gradual return to normalcy. The website, MarinRecovers.com, connects Marin County residents, business owners, community leaders, and public health professionals to collaborate on reopening the economy and community in a safe manner.

Town of Fairfax COVID-19 Resources Page

Visit our dedicated webpage:

www.townoffairfax.org/coronavirus-updates-resources

- Information about Building and Planning services that are still available as well as guidelines.
- Links to the EDD, SBA and Utility Companies.
- Online classes thru Fairfax Recreation and Age Friendly Fairfax.
- Information and resources are updated regularly so check back often.

#fairfaxforward

During this COVID-19 period the Town recognizes the many creative ways community members are supporting each other. We have started #fairfaxforward to share the spirit, mindset and momentum of the Fairfax community. It considers the legacy of our town and

the forward thinking of our residents.

Show us your flair and tag #fairfaxforward!

Fairfax Recreation

We moving forward with camp registration with some modifications. Due to the County Health Orders we are having all campers register for three weeks of camp. To review the things we are doing to support a safe and health camp experience, [click here](#).

Sign up for
Camp!



Join Our Mailing List

