

Fairfax Update

News From Around Town...



July 17, 2020

Letter to the Community from Mayor Goddard

Dear Fairfax Community,

In these times of great uncertainty, lightning fast changes, mandates from higher governing bodies regarding a once in a generation pandemic, it is arrogant, presumptuous and 'tone deaf' for us decision makers to believe that we can continue business as usual. Many decisions we are tasked with making especially in this environment of unknowns are informed by our own vision, hope or despair and are based on our own values and our understanding of what we hear from our community. At this moment in time our direction forward is predicated on scientific hypotheses, amidst calls for systemic change from our next generation. These calls deserve and demand to be listened to. Our role in these anxious times is to seek out the unprecedented opportunities and connect and listen to our communities despite that we are mandated to "shelter in place".

The very nature and intention of SIP is to physically isolate. If we Town Council Members are to connect with our communities, we must invent new modes, learn new technologies, and open ourselves to one another using senses that understandably many of us are not well versed in using.

Day after day the IJ publishes the same article with a new headline, swapping out the names of our 11 incorporated Cities and towns in Marin County, as we turn to "Listening Sessions". These sessions may seem insignificant to some, but I see them as a profound first step to considering needed changes to our embedded systems, upheld not only by our municipal codes but by the unwritten codes of social conduct constrained by social constructs.

The Town Council hosted our own "Listening Session" this week, inviting the public to express themselves, their experiences and their opinions regarding issues of racial equity and social justice. Compelling and emotional public expression was followed with an action item regarding the formation of a committee to address issues around race and social justice, and a subcommittee to discuss and examine policy issues including police practices and alternative approaches to public safety, housing and other policies that many feel lead to racial segregation and lack of inclusivity.

These sessions may be the first tiny step in an evolving paradigm shift. I feel strongly that in order to produce anything substantial, we as a Town Council are even further obligated to conduct honest self-inquiry, and explore our own understanding of the deeply important differences between **Hearing** and **Listening**.

A member of our community recently told me: "When communicating with others, I most often become frustrated when I feel the person is not listening to what I am saying. No matter how I say it, how many times I say it, explain, re-explain, or give specific examples about the topic, they are hearing me and not listening to what I am saying."

I know that we were mostly taught this in grade school, but a quick google search provided me with this simple but profound reminder.

Hearing

- Easy: accidental; automatic.
- Passive: involuntary; effortless.
- Physical Function: involves the ears.

Listening

- Hard: requires practice and being alert.
- Active: a conscious effort; requires focused involvement.
- Internal Behavior: involves mind and body.

I thought I would invite each of you to remember an experience when you were passionate about something and felt that despite your words being heard, you were not listened to.

Some of you may be recalling an experience where you felt that I as the Mayor was not listening. My commitment is to continue developing my listening skills, as the first step toward embracing what I feel called upon to consider in order to effect change.

Please wear your masks, but uncover your ears and involve your body and mind as you listen, so that we can proceed with the hard work and emerge more compassionate and inclusive, making our community one that knows each other, in a time when so many feel alienated, and unwelcome.

Applications Being Accepted for the Town's Racial Equity & Social Justice Committee

At its July 15th meeting, the Town Council approved the formation of the RESJ Committee and appointed Vice-Mayor Ackerman and Councilmember Hellman as the Council representatives to the RESJ.

A Message from Vice-Mayor Ackerman and Councilmember Hellman

The Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Committee will be advisory to the Town Council of Fairfax, CA. The Committee will focus on actively dismantling and eradicating systemic and individual racism, bigotry, and discrimination within our Town, in an effort to create a Fairfax that is explicitly antiracist, equitable, and inclusive in both word and deed. The RESJ Committee will be tasked with A) Identifying all non-equitable, racist, and/or non-inclusive aspects of our Town's function; B) Bringing awareness and action to these problems, prioritizing those items that cause the most harm, and finding ways to dismantle problematic policies and structures where necessary; and C) Identifying key opportunities for growth of and education about antiracist, equitable, forward-thinking practices and policies within all aspects of Fairfax life.

We are seeking applicants who are committed to the active work of antiracism, which includes examining and actively improving all aspects of the Town's function to better align with antiracist goals. This includes but is not limited to questions of education, housing, health, accessibility, budgets, and public safety (including policing practices). The RESJ Committee will center the voices of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color as a primary driver of its function.

A subcommittee of the RESJ Committee will be formed to specifically focus on policing within Fairfax. Fairfax has for many years had its own police force and 911 dispatch center, charged with Community Policing. A representative of the Fairfax Police will participate in these discussions, which will be an opportunity to deeply understand how policing operates in our town, for police leadership to listen to the needs of the community it serves, and for policies to be improved where necessary, and to explore alternative public safety models.

The committee will meet (via Zoom) in open and publicly noticed meetings, with staff support for agenda creation and noticing. The Brown Act will restrict discussion of committee business, as it does with all Town boards and committees. The Town is expecting to provide a trained facilitator to help with these important deliberations. It is hoped that creative and workable proposals will

arise from this process.

Deadline to submit the application:

5PM on Wednesday, August 5, 2020

Virtual interviews with the Town Council are scheduled for the evening of August 12, 2020. Applicants will receive an email confirming their time slot.

[For an application, click here.](#)

2020 Election

The next Fairfax General Municipal Election will be held on November 3, 2020, for the election of three members to the Town Council, each for a term of four years.

The nominations period for persons wishing to run for Town Council opened on July 13, 2020, and closes on August 7, 2020.

If you are interested in running for office, please read "[How to Run for Office](#)" and then contact the Town Clerk, Michele Gardner.



A Reminder that Face Coverings are Mandatory in Marin

Face coverings are required for everyone in Marin — *over 2 years old* — when:

- at indoor AND outdoor businesses – whether as an employee or a customer
- waiting in line to enter a store
- waiting for and using public transit
- when in a taxi or rideshare
- when seeking healthcare; or visiting a hospital, medical clinic, pharmacy, laboratory, dental office, veterinary clinic or blood

- bank
- walking outside and within 6 feet of others (about the length of a mattress)

Mask & Face Coverings FAQs

Helping Our Fairfax Businesses Open Safely

Norma McFaddan, a Guerneville fiber artist/quilter has been busy making (and donating) cloth masks for homeless, the Salvation Army and others in the Russian River area. At the request of Councilmember Barbara Coler, a longtime friend, Norma recently made and donated 100 masks for Fairfax businesses to provide free to customers who do not have masks.



Norma washes and irons all so they are ready to use! Barbara and Mayor Renee distributed the masks in packs of 5 each to 20 businesses on July 3rd. Great news! Norma is making 100 more masks so we plan to distribute them as soon as they arrive to other businesses. The masks are all eclectic fabrics which fit our Fairfax vibe! See photo for an example of some of the great patterns.

Thanks to Norma for helping our Fairfax businesses reopen safely!



Fairfax Small Business Recovery

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 are available on the [Town website click here!](#)

Outdoor Dining and Retail Permits

In an effort to temporarily streamline Town regulations regarding outdoor dining and other business uses (e.g., outdoor retail), the Town Council has created a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) process for private property and an encroachment permit process for public property such as parking spaces. These programs will allow restaurants and other businesses to temporarily expand their operations outside for such uses as dining, retail, or exercise classes.

Click the button below for information on the encroachment permit. Please contact the Planning Department at (415) 453-1584 or Ben Berto, Planning and Building Services Director at bberto@townoffairfax.org for information on the TUP.

Temporary Outdoor Dining and Retail -
Application

Fairfax Library is Open for Curbside Service

Wednesdays 3-7
Thursday 3-7
Friday 11-3
Saturday 11-3

Patrons can place items on hold using our [online catalog](#). Patrons will be notified by email that their item on hold is available. Patrons should call (415) 924-3515 when they are in front of the library during curbside service hours. Returns are accepted during curbside hours.

Fairfax Forward Tee Shirts

Fairfax Forward
celebrates our

eclectic, and passionate, and forward-thinking community. Fairfax Forward will be here through Covid-19 and beyond supporting local small businesses, events, artists, nature, just about anything that celebrates positivity in our wonderful town!



**Show us your flair
and tag
#fairfaxforward!**

Now you can support the Fairfax Small Business Storefront Recovery Fund by buying one of these tees or tank tops, with the stylish graphic designed by local artists Julia Ledyard and Mette Qvistgaard.

Fairfax Forward. Now more than ever.

Proceeds benefit the Fairfax Small Business Storefront Recovery Fund.

Three different styles of stylish tee -- Women's tee, Women's tank, and Men's tee.

Buy online at: www.fairfaxopenforbusiness.com

Upcoming Events

Fairfax Chipper Days

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

Door to door pick up also available.

Your piles/bundles MUST be on the side of the street by 7:00 am Saturday morning. Please don't block vehicle passage.

Call Maria Baird at (415) 456-5652 with questions. *No reservation needed. This is a FREE community service.*

Please note that all the drop off locations are open to the entire Fairfax Community.

Thank you for your participation in this very important program!

Please [check website](#) for update and more information.

Town Council Meeting

**August 5th
7pm**

See the [Public Meetings](#) page for the Agenda and info about this virtual meeting.

Fairfax Community Farmers Market

**Every Wednesday
Bolin 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 Food Pantry

**Saturday mornings from 8-10am
Fairfax Community Church
2398 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Fairfax.**

The Fairfax Food Pantry continues to be open. Drive through or walk up service is available. In addition to our regular bagged groceries, folks will be receiving 15lb produce boxes as part of the **Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)**.

We currently have enough volunteers, however, please sign up through the [Fairfax Volunteer Match program](#) and we contact you as the need arises.

Town of Fairfax COVID-19 Resources

Visit our dedicated webpage:

[**www.townoffairfax.org/coronavirus-updates-resources**](http://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.

Additional Website Resources:

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.

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.

Fairfax Recreation

We have class offerings for all ages - [check out our website](#) for more information.

Join Our Mailing List

