

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.



June 5, 2020



A Message from Mayor Goddard to the Community

I've been sitting with my large sheet of white poster board and my paints, ruminating over what I want to paint on my sign to hold in the Parkade, and stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Movement. I've been holding signs made by other people, one by a white Drake High School student stating "We demand justice" one by a black Drake High School student stating: "Being black is not a

crime". All around me the shouts, "Silence equals violence"
What should my sign say?

I watched the movie "**Detroit**" last night. During the 1967 race riots Government Officials denounced violent acts against black people - "We condemn these acts of violence", "We are appalled by these atrocities, but there is cause for hope", "Change takes time". Look back over 6 decades since the Detroit riots, and consider the incidents of injustice in violence against communities of color and ask: Do we have cause for hope? What has changed? Statements from many of those of us in elected positions today are verbatim to those made in 1967.

When something is systemic, when there is a pandemic, no body is excused from the table. We are experiencing the largest collision of calamities that many of us have witnessed in our lifetimes. For Covid 19, we rightly pour fiscal resources into vaccines and any means to protect our communities and ourselves, because we have been told that we are all equally vulnerable to infection. We power forward to wipe out the Covid 19 pandemic as no one is guaranteed immunity. Where is our response to chronic racism and discrimination? Do we feel immune?

As a white woman and Mayor of a predominantly white town, I am a product of White Privilege. No matter what I do, I have been given a head start over my counterparts of color. I was awarded arbitrary power at birth.

Hoping and waiting for change is grossly insufficient. We must earn the right to hope. Each of us must realize that just like Covid, we are not immune. In fact, without deep introspection, knowledge and honesty about the roots of our power structures and institutionalized racism, society will never change. White privilege is an invisible veil which many of us are only now becoming aware of. Hence, no Covid style emergency response to racism, no paradigm shift.

In the recent edition of the Tam High School News, Mikyla Willams writes of white fragility: "You need to replace sympathy with rapport. People of color don't need pity. What you can do is become aware of the subtle racism that happens on a daily basis and work on helping other white people to do the same."

I hope we will use this time of pandemic and the tragic killing of George Floyd to communicate with one another. It is still vital that we remind each other to show respect by physically distancing and wearing masks, while at the same time, we must lift the veil of white privilege to know that it will take each of us to make the change that is needed.

The world has dramatically changed for all of us since I became the Mayor last December. I want to express my gratitude to our dedicated staff who have worked long nights and weekends to keep

Fairfax going. It has been all hands on deck since March and each day brings new demands. They have my utmost respect.

The Town of Fairfax's Police Department has the most diverse force in the County. Chief Chris Morin has served our community for 20 years and has earned our support and trust. The Chief and I have spent the past several days in close communication. We have collaborated completely throughout one of the most devastating incidents of racial violence at the hands of Law Enforcement Officers. I am grateful for his partnership. Please see Chief Morin's statement below.

Renee Goddard
Mayor of Fairfax

A Letter to the Community from Chief Morin

To the Fairfax Community,

I have been struggling with the proper way to express my personal thoughts and feelings of sadness over the death of George Floyd in Minnesota who died at the hands of Police Officers. While I am not familiar with the policies and practices of agencies in Minnesota, I was confident that what I saw officers do was not an approved arrest technique. My assumptions were quickly confirmed when police officials said just that. My condolences go out to the entire Floyd family and all of those who are currently grieving.

I remain disgusted with what I saw. Common sense tells everyone this was wrong. This reflects poorly on all of us within the Law Enforcement Community. Officers in Minnesota restrained Mr. Floyd for upwards of 8 minutes. One officer held his knee on Mr. Floyd's neck who pleaded with them repeatedly that he couldn't breathe. None of the officers interceded or changed their tactics. That was wrong. I have been a Police Officer for 37 years, having worked prior for the San Rafael Police and Oakland Police Departments. I have been involved in countless arrests where a person had to be restrained. I have never used such a technique nor seen any other officer do so. This is not how we are trained.

[Click here to view the full letter and additional statements from the Chief](#)



Photo Credit: Melissa Briggs

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 are available on the [Town website click here!](#) The first round of applications are due June 8th.

You can also donate to the fund to help our small businesses during this difficult time. We have created a fund thru Marin Link which means your donations will be tax deductible. [Click here to donate](#) Please be sure to type "Fairfax Small Business Recovery Fund" in the "Active Project Donation" field.



Reopening of Outdoor Dining and Retail!

Marin County is moving into the next round of its COVID-19 pandemic response, with modification to its shelter-in-place order. [Outdoor retail](#), [office space](#), [outdoor dining](#), and curbside library services join child care and summer/sports camps as business sectors allowed to reopen on June 1 if guidelines from [Marin County Public Health](#) are followed. New guidelines for those industries to safely reopen are available at [MarinRecovers.com](#).

In an effort to temporarily streamline Town regulations regarding outdoor dining and other business uses (e.g., outdoor retail), the Town Council took several actions at its June 3rd meeting. Specifically, the Town adopted an urgency ordinance to create a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) process. TUP's will allow restaurants and other businesses to temporarily expand their operations outside on their private property (e.g., parking lot) for such uses as dining, retail, or exercise classes.

The Council also adopted a resolution that: 1) authorizes the Town Manager to establish a special administrative permitting process that allows restaurants and other businesses to temporarily operate in a safe, expanded outdoor capacity in the public right-of-way

adjacent to their businesses (e.g., parking spaces) and 2) allows for the temporary closure of portions of Mono Ave.(alley) adjacent to Bolinas Rd. for outdoor dining. There is no fee for either the TUP or special administrative permit. All businesses must comply with the MarinRecovers safety guidelines.

The Council will be considering more options to assist businesses at its June 17th special meeting. The Town website will be updated next week with the process to apply for a TUP and the special administrative permit.

Support Local Businesses with Fairfax Forward Tees!

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!

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



Free Compost for Fairfax Residents

Available starting Friday, June 5th - while it lasts!

Made from the food & yard waste collected from our **GREEN** curbside carts. This is the first compost delivery of the year.

Pavilion Parking lot - bring your own container(s) and shovel.

[Click here for more info.](#)

Fairfax Chipper Days Are Right Around the Corner!

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

First up - the Cascade neighborhood - pick up will be an option!

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 for each neighborhood. Please [check website](#) for updates.



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

Cascade Neighborhood Chipper Days

June 20 & 21

9 am – 3 pm

Doc Edgar Park (Hickory/Cascade/Cypress)

Door-to-door pick up available. Your piles/bundles **MUST** be on the side of the street by 7:00 am **Saturday** morning. But don't block vehicle passage.

Call Maria Baird at (415) 456-5652 with questions.
No reservation needed.

[Check the website for more information about Chipper Days.](#)

Fairfax Community Farmers Market is in Full Swing!

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 Food Pantry Update

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.

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

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

