

# Fairfax Update

News From Around Town...



August 28, 2020

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## A Message to the Community from the Mayor

Dear Fairfax,

San Francisco's mask campaign tag line is: **"I got you covered."** I can't get it out of my head. I've been contemplating the variety of ways in which this message can be applied to these times.

We are mandated and asked in good conscience to **cover our mouths and noses**. We know that mask wearing saves lives. We are faced with unhealthy air quality causing us to **take cover**. We are packing our "go bags" in order to evacuate should we receive the order.



# I got you covered

**I protect you. You protect me.**

All the while our firefighters battle more than 650 wildfires across California, **covering impenetrable landscapes**

We are each challenged to **cover ourselves**, yet I receive emails daily from Fairfaxians who want to **provide cover** for one another.

This week the major sports leagues used their **power to support and cover**, and the **media covered it** amplifying the message of solidarity.

The Giants and the Dodgers stood together and postponed the Wednesday night game. Major League Baseball released a statement in the wake of the horrific Police shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin:

"MLB remains united for change in our society & will be allies in the fight to end racism and injustice." The NBA announced that all games would be postponed. "Some things are just bigger than sports."

It is when the stakes are high and obstacles seem insurmountable that we excel as human beings. We put our masks on and look one another in the eyes to connect and assure each other that **we've got them covered**. We rise without pause to help when we recognize our own fear reflected back in those same eyes. Divides,

factions, fierce political disharmony and pain melts in those moments.

As we ride the waves of months of colliding world-shattering events and cries for core systems changes, it is challenging to sustain that level of commitment to one another.

My children's kindergarten teacher taught the kids to practice "put-ups" and not "put-downs" when they communicate with others. There is always something for us to lift up. I recently heard at a Black Lives Matter protest a call to "stop calling one another out", and "call in" and check ourselves instead.

It has never been more important that we put each other up and call ourselves in. This is where we will find our commonalities.

A friend just returned from a solo journey in a remote and deeply conservative part of Utah. Her car had broken down and she ended up spending 5 hours in a truck with a local Rancher. She recounted the story of their discussion of land stewardship, government, the economy, and all of the things that have become taboo to talk about across party lines, across lines slashed through families and friends. Her takeaway was that within 95% of what they discussed they could find points of commonality. This is not the time to dwell in the 5% where we will never find peace. Even with deep gaping divides and disagreements embedded in that 95%, committing to human connection will sustain us.

The issues of our time do not discriminate in the power of their impact on all of our lives, and both the problems and the solutions are generated by and solvable within the bounds of our human community.

All Immunocompromised individuals with respiratory vulnerability are equally at risk when there is a deficit of ventilators. We need the same elemental ingredients to breathe.

Fire does not steer a belief-based course, and our fences don't protect us from embers which may ignite in our neighbor's yards. We are all subject to the same wind and natural environment. Martin Luther King wrote: "**Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.**" We are inextricably in this together!

We cannot hide from the challenges we face, but as we **take cover** and **cover each other**, we can find ways to call up our commonalities. There is always an intersection where no matter how many lanes converge, we will find our most meaningful and equitable path forward.

Please stay well everyone, and if you think of it, take a look into someone's eyes and let them know you've got them covered.

Renee Goddard  
Mayor - Town of Fairfax

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## Fairfax Climate Action Plan Survey

The Town of Fairfax is updating its 2014 Climate Action Plan and Climate Action Committee needs your input to develop effective measures that will substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In March of 2019, the Town Council passed a Climate Emergency Resolution and set a target of zero emissions by 2030, going beyond State reduction targets.

After receiving community feedback, the Fairfax Climate Action Committee will bring a first draft of the 2030 Climate Action Plan to the Council and then post it for further public comment. Hopefully, a final version will come before the Council by the end of this year.

[Take the Survey Here](#)

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## Mental Health Resources

Last month the Marin IJ published [this article](#) outlining the increase in incidence of mental health crises and the escalation of both physical and drug abuse the County is seeing during this pandemic. Depression and anxiety are at an all time high and feeling isolated is impacting a significant number people's day to day lives.

Unfortunately, we are not entering a time when mental health and wellness is suddenly going to improve. Thankfully, we are however living in a time when asking for help is considered a strength. Below are links to County and National resources which may be helpful for you or a friend or family member.

[Click here](#) for a list of local and national resource lines.

[Click here](#) to connect with Community Action Marin and their resource guide.

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## Town Council Meeting September 2nd at 7pm

On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 5:30, the Town Council will be considering appointments to the Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee (RESJ). At 7:00pm, the Council will open its regular meeting. Topics include the Council discussion on the status of the Cascade Striping project, consideration of documents to refinance unfunded pension obligations, and discussion on establishing two regular Council meetings per month.

[Click here](#) to view the agenda.

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## Video Update from Dr. Willis: Wildfire Impact on COVID-19 Response

Marin's Public Health Officer, Dr. Matt Willis, shares an update about wildfire safety during the age of COVID-19. In this message, he outlines four important examples of how the wildfires are affecting our COVID-19 response, including personal risk factors, safe activities, use of masks, and safe evacuations.



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## 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 closed on August 7, 2020.

Please visit our [Elections page](#) for the list of candidates and more information about the election.

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## 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](mailto:bberto@townoffairfax.org) for information on the TUP.

Temporary Outdoor Dining and Retail -  
Application

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## Upcoming Meetings & Events

### Town Council Meeting

September 2nd at 7pm

[Click here](#) to view the agenda.

### Fairfax Community Farmers Market

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

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.

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## Fairfax Recreation

We are working on the fall catalog, adapting our offerings to work with this "new normal". Wishing all the best to our community of

families as the kids head back to school, online.

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

One of our Artists in Residence, Stephanie Mohan, took some wonderful photos of our Fire Department. We are so thankful for the work they do, especially now as fire rages thru the state.



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### **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) 453-8151 when they are in front of the library during curbside service hours. Returns are accepted during curbside

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### **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](http://www.fairfaxopenforbusiness.com), where you can also join an email list to receive specials and updates.

The website, [MarinRecovers.com](http://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 sitio web se puede traducir al español**

El sitio web se puede traducir al español usando el ícono del globo que se encuentra en la barra verde de cada página.

Our website can now be translated into Spanish (and other languages) using the globe icon found on the green bar at the top of each page.

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