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Fairfax Update

News from around Town...



July 2017

NEW IMPROVEMENTS AT CLAUS CIRCLE PARK

The Town has completed improvements at Claus Circle Park. While the Town grubbed the site and installed the pathway with a bench, the neighborhood residents graciously volunteered to install the plants and trees.

NEW CROSSWALK FLASHING LIGHT SYSTEM

If you haven't noticed yet, the Town installed another Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) crosswalk system on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. (SFD) between Fairfax Market and M&G Burgers. The other RRFB was previously installed on SFD at Taylor. Both systems were primarily funded by grants from the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) with additional funding provided by the Town's Measure J (Special Municipal Tax) funds.

Upcoming Events

July 15th
Creek Clean Up
9:30-1pm

July 22nd thru
August 12th
Chipper Days

July 31st
Camp Fairfax Starts

Quick Links

[Town Website](#)
[Fairfax Recreation](#)
[Emergency FAQs](#)
[Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Artist in Residence](#)





CLASS I BIKE LANE TO COMPLETE BIKE SPINE PROJECT

In April 2017, the Council awarded a contract for approximately \$285,000 to construct a Class I Bike Lane from Glen Drive to White Hill Middle School's athletic field (Lefty Gomez) along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard to complete the Fairfax Bicycle Spine Project. A Class I Bike Lane is a protected, separated bike path for the exclusive use of bicyclists and pedestrians. The project is being primarily funded by a grant from the Transportation Authority of Marin ("TAM") with a portion of funding coming from the Town's Measure J funds. The work is slated to begin July 5th and completed prior to the first day of school.

AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING PROJECT (VICTORY VILLAGE)



At its May meeting the Council approved the 54-unit affordable senior housing project located at 2626 Sir Francis Drake. The project proponent is Resources for Community Development (RCD), a non-profit affordable housing developer based in Berkeley. All the units are income-restricted to low and very low income senior households, with the exception of the manager's unit. The zoning (i.e., the second reading of the zoning ordinance) for the project was adopted at the Council's June meeting.

STATUS OF REPAIR OF CLOSED ROADS

The Town has been working diligently to design improvements to repair the roads closed due to damage by the winter storms. To facilitate the repairs, the Council in March, declared the existence of a local emergency at or near 300 Tamalpais Road, 92 Madrone Road, and 355 Forrest Avenue which allowed the Town to move forward with repairs without following its formal competitive bid process. The Town has also been working closely with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and CalOES (Calif. Office of



Emergency Services) to ensure these projects are eligible for reimbursement. FEMA and CalOES combined will reimburse approximately 93.5% of eligible project costs.

Staff is currently obtaining construction cost estimates for Madrone and Tamalpais, but no contracts may be awarded until FEMA completes its project reviews and site inspections. We are hopeful FEMA's reviews and inspections will be completed within 3 weeks. Our current engineering estimate is that cost to repair each road will range between \$60,000 to \$80,000.

With regard to the Forrest Avenue (see picture) repair, this project was not eligible for FEMA funding due to a regulatory technicality. As a result, the Town was required to seek emergency relief funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This program is administered by Caltrans. We are waiting for approval from FHWA for the project. Staff anticipates this project, due to its estimated \$230,000 cost, will be required to follow the Towns' formal competitive bid process per FHWA regulations. The Forrest Ave project should be out to bid in 2-3 weeks, but we cannot award a bid until FHWA completes its review.

It should be noted that other roads damaged by the storm are also in the process of being reviewed by FEMA. Some of these roads are still in the design process and, due to costs, may require the Town to follow its formal competitive bid process. The Town will proceed ahead with repairs once approval is granted by FEMA. However, our highest priority remains repairing those roads closed due to storm damage.

We appreciate the community's patience while we try to balance the need for expediency with the need to remain eligible for federal reimbursement of project costs.

SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM

For those residents interested in repairing/replacing their sidewalks, the Town offers a grant up to 50% or \$500 of the cost, whichever is less. The Town will also cover the cost of the encroachment permit (upwards of \$500). Program applications are available on the Town's website at www.townoffairfax.org under the forms/documents tab.

CALL FOR NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

Last September, Governor Brown signed into law the California Voter Participation Rights Act (also known as "SB 415") for the purpose of increasing voter turnout at local elections. The law seeks to do so by requiring local governments to move their elections to coincide with regular statewide election dates, which are always in even-numbered years. For local governments that hold their regular elections in odd-numbered years, like Fairfax, the law provides that the local governing bodies may for this one time either increase or decrease the terms of elected officers by up to 12 months in order to switch to even-numbered years. The Act requires that the transition be fully implemented by November 8, 2022.

In April, the Council decided the Town will hold elections in 2017 and 2019, but that the terms of the elected officials will be for 3 years, instead of the standard 4 years. Beginning with the November 2020 election, the terms for elected officials will return to the standard 4-year term.

In November of 2017, three councilmembers' terms expire; in November of 2019, two councilmembers' (as well as the Town Treasurer's and Town Clerk's) terms expire.

CREEK CLEAN UP

Saturday, July 15th 9:30 am - 1 pm

Join the Fairfax Volunteers to help clean the creek! This year, the creek clean up will be led by Sarah Phillips, Urban Streams Program Manager for the Marin Resource Conservation District. Sarah will provide a brief presentation on creek life and creek awareness issues. Additionally, there will be a creek walk sponsored by Sustainable Fairfax, as part of their walking tours, offered on the third Saturday of each month. Coffee & refreshments will be served. Please wear close toed shoes. Gloves will be provided. For more information, you may contact Maria Baird at: mbaird@townoffairfax.org

CHIPPER DAYS

Once again, it's time to clear your property and provide defensible space as we enter dangerous fire season. When you have removed the vegetation waste around your home, you may bring it to the following locations throughout town, on the set dates:

Saturday, July 22nd 9 am-3 pm
Doc Edgar Park
(corner of Cascade, Cypress & Hickory)

Saturday, July 29th 9 am-3 pm
Olema & Sir Francis Drake Blvd
Pavilion parking lot

Saturday, August 12th 9 am- 3pm
Deer Park parking lot



You may bring bay tree saplings, scotch broom, brush, and branches and other yard trimmings. Please cut your brush to 4 inches in diameter so it will fit through the chipper. You may not bring rocks or fire wood.

This year, we will be offering a special pick up service, for a fee, to those who are unable to bring their yard waste to the drop off sites. To find out more information and to schedule a pick up appointment, please contact Maria Baird at:

mbaird@townoffairfax.org

or call (415) 456-5652.

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