

Grand Re-opening of Peri Park!

Join us for pizza and fun at a Grand Re-opening of Peri Park on Friday, February 24th at Noon! The park was hit hard by mud and debris, and has now been cleaned and inspected. New sand and wood chips have been spread on the grounds, thanks to a group of hardworking volunteers. Join us in thanking the volunteers and in welcoming kids back to our beloved park! (May be rescheduled if the weather does not cooperate)

Creek Monitoring Working Group

A creek/flood monitoring working group has formed as a joint venture between the Town and the volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering to monitor the water levels of a creek near your home, and relay critical information to the Town, we are looking for folks who'd like to participate in setting up a protocol for this endeavor. Contact Linda Kelly, Town Manager, at lkelly@townoffairfax.org or 458-2345 for more information.

Useful Information and Phone Numbers

State Supplemental Grants to individuals and households of up to \$10,000 may be applied for by calling 1-800-759-6807. These grants are offered when assistance from FEMA's Individuals and Households Program has been maximized.

Internal Revenue Service will provide guidance on tax relief for disaster casualty losses. Call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

California Board of Equalization offers extensions to file tax returns and relief of interest and penalties to taxpayers and fee payers affected by the disaster. 1-800-400-7115.

California Department of Insurance provides advice on insurance issues, claims, and problems with settlements at 1-800-927-4357.

Contractors State License Board provides guidance in checking a contractor's license and obtaining information about hiring a licensed contractor to assist homeowners in rebuilding, repair, or restoration of damaged property. Call the CSLB Disaster Hotline at 1-800-962-1125.

CALVET Loan recipients can contact the CALVET Claims Administrator at 1-800-626-1613, Ext. 5, for assistance with any damage or losses from the disaster.

Social Security Administration provides expedited delivery of assistance checks for Social Security recipients who were impacted by the disaster. Call the SSA at 1-800-772-1213.

Area Agencies on Aging assists seniors with a wide range of services in times of crisis. 1-800-510-2020.

Fairfax Delivers!

Toni Jones of Avatar would like to thank to everyone for contributing to the Flood Fund Relief. A total of \$850 was collected and the businesses are deciding where to donate the funds. Special thanks to the businesses that put out the Flood Donation cans:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| ■ Avatar Business Center | ■ Fairfax Gym | ■ Iron Springs |
| ■ Bell Market | ■ Fairfax Library | ■ M & G Burgers |
| ■ Bookbeat | ■ Fairfax Post Office | ■ Mauro's Pizza |
| ■ Broadway Video | ■ Fairfax Scoop | ■ Peri's Deli |
| ■ Coffee Roster | ■ Fairfax Variety | ■ Rainbow Fabrics |
| ■ Drake Video | ■ Good Earth | ■ Tack & Feed |

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Fairfax, CA 94930

Town of Fairfax
142 Bolinas Road
Fairfax, CA 94930

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DISASTER RECOVERY UPDATE

TOWN OF FAIRFAX

Recovering from the New Year's Eve Storm

To the Community of Fairfax,

The storm provided us with a strong reminder of the need to be prepared at all times for an emergency. We are very fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful areas of the country, but we know that we reside in a land that is also home to the reality of the natural forces of earthquakes, floods and fires. We now have a great opportunity before us - the opportunity to prepare ourselves and our families for future potential disasters. The Town is making preparedness a little easier for you with two upcoming preparedness events:

- An Emergency Preparedness and Home Safety Fair is taking place on the grounds near Town Hall on Saturday, March 25th. See the notice included in this newsletter.
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training is happening on April 1st and 8th in Corte Madera as part of Central Marin CERT (see below).

We have been inspired by the spirit of cooperation displayed by the community during this time of crisis. Thank you to everyone who helped during and after the storm and thank you for helping our local merchants recover by frequenting their businesses. As we continue to work together to recover from the floods, we welcome your ideas on how we can make our community safer and more prepared.

Sincerely,

Linda Kelly, Town Manager

Ken Hughes, Chief of Police

Roger Meagor, Chief, Ross Valley Fire Service

Disaster Recovery Assistance

Was your home, property, or business damaged by the flood?



The Local Assistance Center in San Anselmo is still open for residents seeking in-person assistance with disaster recovery resources. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Small Business Administration (SBA) representatives are there to assist you.

Local Assistance Center
241 Sir Francis Drake, San Anselmo
Hours: M-F 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Saturday, February 25th is scheduled to be the last day of operation)

Directions: From Fairfax, take Sir Francis Drake to the hub, continue on Sir Francis Drake to the first light after the hub, which is Bank, and make a right on Bank. The Local Assistance Center is on your left.)

You can also apply for FEMA financial assistance over the phone or on-line:

Call FEMA today at 1-800-621-FEMA (1-800-621-3362); on-line at www.fema.gov.

The deadline to apply for FEMA assistance is April 4, 2006.

Business owners may call the Small Business Administration (SBA) Helpline at 1-800-659-2955 or visit www.sba.gov/disaster. Homeowners and renters as well as business owners may apply for SBA loans for disaster recovery. The current interest rate is 2.68% for homeowners and renters and 4% for business owners. Terms are 30 year fixed.

The County of Marin's Storm Recovery Information Hotline (473-5614) is also open to answer questions about recovery efforts.

Got CERT?

CERT stands for **Community Emergency Response Team**, a program being offered for residents to learn the basics of life safety and emergency response. Individuals who are trained may serve as a resource for their family and neighborhood in the event of a disaster or emergency. Central Marin CERT training is being coordinated jointly through Ross Valley, Ross, Kentfield and Corte Madera Fire Departments, and is a course taught in two modules. All participants will receive a student manual, flashlight, helmet, vest, and work gloves.

Central Marin CERT Training

- Saturday, April 1st 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 8th 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Corte Madera Fire Department
342 Tamalpais Drive, Corte Madera

Cost: \$30

Sign up by calling Maria Baird, Community Resources Coordinator for the Town of Fairfax, at 458-2367

Based on the response to these sessions, future sessions are being planned in the Ross Valley for the summer.

Expedited Building Permits for Disaster-Related Repairs

The Town Council has approved a process to expedite storm damage repair by allowing a waiver of the need for Planning Commission approval of Use Permits related to grading, retaining walls, temporary structures and other storm-related repairs. The Council also voted to waive permit and consultant fees for individuals seeking to make storm-related repairs to their properties, including creek-related repairs.

Property owners are to notify Town staff by February 28, 2006 of their intent to apply for permits related to storm repairs. The permits and work do not have to be completed by that time but the Town needs to be notified by that date of the intent to apply for permits for storm-related repairs. The Town will process refunds to those property owners who already pulled permits for storm-related repairs. **Property owners and business owners affected by the flood disaster are encouraged to contact the Town's Building Department at 453-1584 for further information regarding this expedited permitting process.**

Business License Extension for Flood-damaged Businesses

The Town Council approved an extension of the grace period for business license renewals for businesses affected by storm damage. Under the Town's Code, the grace period for 2006 business license fees is February 1st. The Town Council has now extended the grace period to May 1, 2006 for those businesses affected by flood damage in order to provide some financial relief while merchants are working on restoring their businesses. **Affected merchants can contact the Town at 453-1584 for any questions about business license renewals.**

Neighborhood Groups

The Fairfax Volunteers is encouraging neighborhoods to enhance their very local communities through a program called Neighborhood Groups. Each neighborhood has varying needs and desires, from traffic calming, pedestrian and bike issues, block parties, kids and elders, as well as disaster response. Especially after the recent flooding, public awareness is currently heightened about disasters, from flooding to earthquake and wildfire danger. FV is hoping to use this awareness to encourage CERT training for community members, as well as networks of individuals with awareness of local needs and capabilities. Phone trees and awareness are one obvious outgrowth, while community and friendships are grown as well. Interested in the well being and safety of your area? **Please contact the volunteers at fairfaxvolunteers@earthlink.net to learn more about how to create a Neighborhood Group in your area of town.**

Also, see our website: www.fairfaxvolunteers.org

Siren Update

The Town Council has directed staff to go out to bid for a siren alarm warning system to be used in cases of disasters, such as fires or flood. Currently, we are looking at a three alarm system, to ensure adequate coverage for all areas of Town. Staff will be presenting the results of the public bids to the Council and will be recommending a vendor, with the intent of making a decision in March or April.

Bridge Repair Update

The Town is starting the process of completing the public agency assistance paperwork through FEMA for damage to Town infrastructure, including Creek Road Bridge and Peri Park Pedestrian Bridge. For the most up to date information regarding public infrastructure repairs, contact Debra Sue Johnson, Public Works Director, at 453-0291.

Town obtains help from Disaster Recovery Specialist

The Town of Fairfax has contracted with Dimensions Unlimited, a firm that specializes in financial recovery from disasters. Dimensions is serving as the Town's advocate with FEMA and the State to ensure that all possible reimbursement and recovery monies are secured.

Water District Provides Billing Relief

At their January 18th board meeting, the Board of Directors of Marin Municipal Water District voted in favor of discounting the cost of water used by customers to clean up their properties in the wake of recent flooding. The emergency measure will permit an adjustment to the water bill of customers who can substantiate the extraordinary use of water for the 30-day period following December 31, 2005 (ending January 30, 2006) for the sole purpose of cleaning up their properties in the aftermath of the flood. The adjustment for qualifying customers will be limited to two billing periods and is at the discretion of MMWD General Manager Paul Helliker. **To initiate a request for adjustment or for more information on the calculation used for the billing adjustment MMWD customers should contact the Customer Service Department at 415-945-1400 or by email at customerservice@marinwater.org and follow-up with a formal written request.**

Disaster Preparedness and Home Safety Fair

Saturday, March 25th, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Out on the Lawn

Bolinas Road near Fairfax Town Hall

- Displays from Police and Fire Departments
- Disaster Preparedness supplies and kits on display
- Learn how to be better prepared to protect yourself and your family in the event of a disaster or emergency

Build a Family Disaster Kit

Having the right supplies on hand when a disaster happens can make a big difference. Plan to store enough supplies for everyone in your household for at least three days. These supplies should include the following:

- 1. Water.** Have at least one gallon per person per day.
- 2. Food.** Pack non-perishable, high-protein items, including energy bars, ready-to-eat soup, peanut butter, etc. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water.
- 3. Flashlight.** Include extra batteries.
- 4. First aid Kit.** Pack a reference guide.
- 5. Medications.** Don't forget prescription and non-prescription items.
- 6. Battery-operated radio.** Include extra batteries.
- 7. Tools.** Keep a wrench to turn off gas if necessary, a manual can opener, screwdriver, hammer, pliers, knife, duct tape, plastic sheeting, garbage bags and ties.
- 8. Clothing.** Provide a change of clothes for everyone, including sturdy shoes and gloves. Don't forget blankets and raincoats.
- 9. Personal items.** Remember eyeglasses or contact lenses and solution; copies of important papers, including identification cards, insurance policies, birth certificates, passports, etc.; and comfort items such as toys and books.
- 10. Sanitary supplies.** You'll want toilet paper, towelettes, feminine supplies, personal hygiene items, bleach, etc.
- 11. Money. Have cash.** (ATMs and credit cards won't work if the power is down.)
- 12. Contact information.** Carry a current list of family phone numbers and e-mail addresses, including someone out of the area who may be easier to reach if local phone lines are out of service or overloaded.
- 13. Pet supplies.** Include food, water, leash, litter box and plastic bags, tags, any medications and vaccination information.
- 14. Map.** Consider marking a map with an evacuation route from your local area.

Include any necessary items for infants, seniors and people with disabilities in your kit. Store your disaster supplies in a sturdy but easy-to-carry container. A large covered trash container, overnight backpack or duffel bag will work. Keep a smaller version of the kit in your vehicle. If you become stranded or are not able to return home, having some items with you will help you be more comfortable until help arrives.

Adapted from "5 Actions for Emergency Preparedness" pamphlet, American Red Cross, 2003.



Learn to Handle a Crisis

The Ross Valley Fire Service is available to meet with your neighborhood group to discuss disaster preparedness, forming neighborhood emergency response capabilities, evacuation planning, and CERT training. The neighbors of Willow Avenue have started organizing to become more prepared and recently met with Fire Battalion Chief Michael Denning to review what they could do to help themselves and their neighbors in a time of crisis. **If your neighborhood would like a representative present at a meeting to help you become more informed, organized and prepared for an emergency, contact Ross Valley Fire at 258-4686.**

Earthquake Preparedness

The U.S. Geological Survey has a useful publication entitled **Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country** which explains earthquakes, and provides advice on being prepared, and what you should do during and after an earthquake hits. The booklet can be downloaded at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/2005/15/>.

The Town has ordered a supply which will be available for pick up at Town Hall as soon as we receive them. If you would like a copy mailed to your home, please call the Town offices at 453-1584.

FAIRFAX CONTACT INFO

Town of Fairfax

142 Bolinas Road (temporarily next to Fire Station on Park Road)

Town Hall Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday
8:30 a.m. – Noon, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Friday – closed to the public

Main Number

453-1584

Direct Numbers

Public Works:
453-0291

Building Inspector
458-2370

Building Inspection Requests
453-2263

Town Manager
458-2345

Visit the Town of Fairfax website for updates on disaster recovery and Town meetings:
www.townoffairfax.org

Check out the Town Manager's Blog for additional information:

<http://townmanager.blogspot.com>