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Coronavirus roundup: Marin aims to start relaxing its retail rules next week

May 13, 2020 | Kevin Hessel

While California's guidelines amid the coronavirus pandemic now say counties can allow retail book, music, clothing, flower, toy and sporting-goods shops to reopen for curbside pickup and delivery, Marin and the rest of the Bay Area won't be relaxing their stricter, unified regional stay-at-home order until May 18.

"Working in concert with regional health officers, Marin County Public Health recognizes that to take this step safely will require time to prepare," county health officials said in a press statement last week. Gov. Gavin Newsom on May 7 announced the retail guidelines that would go into effect the following day, May 8, but Dr. Matt Willis, the county's public-health officer, said the county needed more time to ensure child care was available for the newly mobilized workforce and that cities and towns would be able to coordinate and accommodate traffic from curbside pickup and delivery services. The region's public-health officials said May 6 they will announce the details of...

Belvedere-Tiburon rec agency gets nearly \$100k for salaries, maintenance and utility costs

May 13, 2020 | Deirdre McCrohan

With a \$16,000 boost from the town, the Tiburon Peninsula Chamber of Commerce's COVID-19 relief fund for small businesses has raised about \$39,000 — money that is set to be doled out this week to local businesses in need. Tiburon's contribution, approved unanimously by the Town Council at its May 6 teleconference meeting, will come out of the \$186,000 the town previously earmarked for the development of a chamber-run downtown visitor center. That center will now be scaled back and moved from its planned location on Fountain Plaza, a high-traffic site along downtown Tiburon Boulevard at Main Street, to a smaller vacant space farther up Main Street toward Ark Row.

For the complete story, pick up this week's edition of The Ark on newsstands or SUBSCRIBE NOW for home delivery.

Tiburon council redirects \$16,000 from planned visitor center to chamber's coronavirus business fund

May 13, 2020 | Deirdre McCrohan

With most of its revenue-generating classes and events suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic, Belvedere-Tiburon Recreation has secured nearly \$100,000 from the town of Tiburon to help it sustain its operations through the summer. The Town Council at its May 6 teleconference meeting unanimously approved a grant of \$99,200 for the joint public recreation agency, known as The Ranch, to help it cover employee salaries, as well as maintenance and utility costs at its Dairy Knoll recreation center on Ned's Way, through the end of August. The recreation agency has determined it will need \$124,000 in financial assistance over the next couple of months.

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Tiburon police remind seniors they're not alone during quarantine

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May 13, 2020 | Hannah Weikel

Every morning at 9 a.m., Tiburon resident Paula Little gets a phone call. But it's not a relative or a chatty friend on the line. The daily call comes from the Tiburon Police Department, making sure she hasn't fallen again. Little, 77, says she has fallen inside her Old Tiburon home more times than she can count. Often she is able to immediately reach help using her Life Alert emergency-call device, but on a few occasions the phone call from Tiburon police has been what saved her life. Little is a member of "You Are Not Alone," a free program provided by the Tiburon police for seniors, people with disabilities and housebound residents — a program that's become increasingly important as the town's most at-risk residents are further isolated under the coronavirus pandemic stay-at-home order.

For the complete story, pick up this week's edition of The Ark on newsstands or [SUBSCRIBE NOW](#) for home delivery.

School-bus program to delay pass sales amid uncertainty

May 13, 2020 | Emily Lavin

The local Yellow Bus Challenge program will hold off on setting prices and selling passes for the 2020-2021 school year until it has more details on when and how schools will reopen amid the coronavirus pandemic. The program typically sets the price for and begins selling its subsidized one-way bus passes in May for the following school year. This year, however, the Tiburon Peninsula Traffic Relief Joint Powers Authority, which oversees the program, will wait to do so until it has a better idea of whether the school year will start on time and what physical-distancing measures might be in place when classes resume, two factors that could significantly impact the program's operation.

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Coronavirus roundup: Marin gets first free testing clinic; state shelter order could last 18 months; Strawberry lab offers antibody test

May 5, 2020 | Kevin Hessel

MAY 4 — Marin has rolled out its first free coronavirus testing clinic in San Rafael's Canal area, one of 80 state-funded sites aimed at increasing testing in underserved communities, while a New Jersey-based lab with offices in Strawberry is now offering antibody testing for about \$130.

Meanwhile, California Gov. Gavin Newsom said this week the state's stay-at-home rules will begin to relax on May 8, but state health officials separately clarified the final stage of the order won't be lifted until a vaccine is in place — which could take 12-18 months. At the same time, a Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy report issued last week suggested global herd immunity won't be reached for 18-24 months.

The global COVID-19 case total surpassed 3 million last week, the U.S. total passed 1 million and California's total passed 50,000, while global deaths passed 200,000 and California deaths passed 2,000. **Marin:** 240 confirmed cases, 13 deaths, per the Marin Department of Health and Hum...

Extended, relaxed shelter order underway in Marin, Bay Area

May 5, 2020 | Hannah Weikel

Marin and other Bay Area public-health officials have extended their regional shelter-in-place orders through May 31, relaxing restrictions on certain "low risk" outdoor activities amid the coronavirus pandemic. Under the new orders, which went into effect May 4, construction workers, gardeners and landscapers can get back to work; garden centers, golf courses, athletic fields and skate parks can reopen; while recreational facilities and summer camps can host small groups — but all the new rules come with limitations. With the focus on outdoor activities, risk was a key factor, official said, so restaurants, cafes and bars with outdoor seating don't qualify, and "high touch" recreation remains off-limits, such as playgrounds, dog parks, picnic areas, swimming pools and anything with shared equipment.

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Tiburon peninsula chamber fund to help small businesses tops \$11k

The Tiburon Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has raised more than \$11,000 of its \$50,000 goal to support local businesses hard hit by the financial impact of the coronavirus — and the relief fund could get an additional infusion from town money previously earmarked for a planned downtown visitor center. At tonight's Town Council meeting, set for 6:30 p.m. via teleconference, a recently formed small-business task force made up of town officials, business owners and Chamber of Commerce representatives is expected to recommend the council redistribute some of the \$186,000 it previously allocated for development of a visitor center at Fountain Plaza to the relief fund.

For the complete story, pick up this week's edition of The Ark on newsstands or SUBSCRIBE NOW for home delivery.

'I will not abandon you': Belvedere yacht club's flags signal community support amid pandemic

May 5, 2020 | Hannah Weikel



As a sign of solidarity with the community amid the coronavirus pandemic, members of the San Francisco Yacht Club have hoisted a trio of signal flags above the club that mean "I will stand by to assist you" — inspired by a story of a heroic rescue in the Atlantic Ocean in 1926. The flags were raised late last month and will remain until the clubhouse, which closed in mid-March under the county and state shelter-in-place orders, can open again, officials say. The idea was derived by Staff Commodore James Robinson from a story he read at the San Francisco Maritime Museum about the crew of the SS President Roosevelt ocean

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ARK The Ark
on Saturday

The Marin County Fair has been canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, but the event's competitions will go on — virtually.

The organizers of the event, originally scheduled for July 1-5 at the county fairgrounds in San Rafael, have launched a series of online contests for residents to enter. Competitions will range from decorated baked goods and trash-to-treasure artwork to pet costume contests, funny family photos and poetry.

The contests will be announced each Monday o...
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ARK The Ark
on Saturday

Even before architect Miles Berger retired last year, he and his wife, Piper, began to talk about their future. They both loved their Tiburon home and wanted to stay in it

liner, who flew signal flags meaning “I will not abandon you” as they stood by a British cargo steamship, SS Antinoe, as it sank during a 1926 winter storm.

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Coronavirus roundup: Deaths pass grim milestones; senior facilities hit hard; pet cats test positive; state announces new initiatives

April 29, 2020 | Kevin Hessel

APRIL 27 — Marin public-health officials say they will announce an extension and any changes to the Bay Area's coronavirus shelter-in-place order this week, as the regional order is set to expire May 3 and Gov. Gavin Newsom told Californians last week “we are not prepared” to reopen large sectors of society.

“Our biggest challenges are ahead of us as we try to balance the needs for opening our economy while preventing surges in disease, knowing that the virus is part of our environment, and that so many of us remain susceptible to COVID-19,” Marin's public-health officer, Dr. Matt Willis, said April 22 after Newsom's announcement.

Meanwhile, at least half of Marin's deaths have come from senior-care facilities; California and the U.S. had new peaks of 151 and 2,471 deaths, respectively, on April 22, while total California and U.S. deaths surpassed 1,500 and 50,000, respectively, last week; Newsom eased restrictions on elective procedures; the emptied-out Paycheck Protection Progra...

Real-estate agents adjust as pandemic impacts Tiburon Peninsula's housing market

April 29, 2020 | Heather Lobdell

Spring is typically high season for real estate in Belvedere and Tiburon, with a large wave of new listings and prospective buyers hitting the market mid-February through early June. But nothing about this spring's market is typical. With the COVID-19 pandemic and the countywide and state shelter-in-place mandates, experts say the real-estate market has become difficult at best.

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Parking tickets fail to deter scores of visitors to parks, trails in Tiburon

April 29, 2020 | Hannah Weikel

Increasingly warm weather continues to drive people to the Tiburon Peninsula to use parks and open spaces despite the shelter-in-place order and closures to motorized traffic, and Tiburon police say the \$45 parking tickets they've been doling out to rule-breakers don't appear to be much of a deterrent. From April 10, when Tiburon started clamping down on parking near popular trails and open spaces under Marin's countywide public-health order, to April 25, police issued 163 citations to cars registered outside the 94920 ZIP code. Seven of those citations have been appealed.

For the complete story, pick up this week's edition of The Ark on newsstands or [SUBSCRIBE NOW](#) for home delivery.

Care packages, food drive aim to help Tiburon Peninsula residents affected by coronavirus

April 29, 2020 | Emily Lavin



Noah Kempler's idea for helping others during the coronavirus pandemic developed out of the anxiety he felt trying to find a basic item that has been scarce since the virus began to spread: toilet paper. After scouring empty store shelves, Kempler was able to locate a supply of toilet paper online. In addition to ordering some for his own family, the Tiburon resident decided to purchase extra to help seniors in the community who are particularly vulnerable to the virus and may be unable to get the supplies they need. For the past several weeks, Kempler and his family have been creating care packages and delivering them to the doorsteps of local seniors in need. Meanwhile, in Belvedere, Del Mar Middle School seventh-grader Jasmine Wood was also inspired to help. After seeing news reports about widespread job losses due to businesses having to close or reduce operations during the county and statewide shelter-in-place orders, Jasmine decided to organize a food drive to benefit the SF-Mar...

Barge delivery to Belvedere construction site stalls over eelgrass concerns

April 29, 2020 | Hannah Weikel



A construction company building a massive cliff-side home on Belvedere's western shore has been granted limited access to deliver materials and equipment via city roads after several regulatory agencies halted use of a barge and landing craft due to potential damage to eelgrass and sensitive fish habitats. At its April 21 meeting, the Belvedere Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve a request from Jamba Construction to modify conditions of the city's prior design-review approval and allow construction materials including concrete to be brought in via Belvedere Avenue and Cliff Road to the construction site at 46 Cliff Road.

For the complete story, pick up this week's edition of The Ark on newsstands or SUBSCRIBE NOW for home delivery.

Belvedere-Tiburon Library postpones

making decision on solar panels for expanded building

April 23, 2020 | Deirdre McCrorian



Belvedere-Tiburon Library officials will hold off on installing solar panels as part of the library's ongoing expansion, but they plan to revisit the conversation as construction nears completion. The Belvedere-Tiburon Library Agency board of trustees at its April 20 meeting, held via Zoom, voted unanimously to postpone approving the panels, mainly to save available money for the \$17.6-million base project, an 8,610-square-foot addition to the existing building. Purchase and installation of solar panels was not included in the project design underway. The board noted it wants to revisit the issue next spring, closer to when the expansion project is expected to be completed.

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