



[The Town of Corte Madera's Newsletter for December 27, 2019](#)

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**Town Hall Holiday Office Closures**

We would like to inform you that Town Hall Offices will be closed to the public for the holidays beginning Monday, December 23, 2019 through Friday, January 3, 2020.



Offices will reopen on Monday, January 6, 2020. All emergency services will remain available during this time.

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## **ATTENTION CASA BUENA DRIVE RESIDENTS:**

The Town of Corte Madera has embarked on another phase of its comprehensive vegetation management program to further increase defensible space, improve ingress & egress for first responders, improve primary and secondary evacuation routes, improve vehicular sightlines, and enhance pedestrian and biker safety. This is a town-wide initiative.

### **Landscape on Private vs. Public Property**

Any tree or vegetation planted on private property is the property owner's responsibility, including if it is encroaching into the public right-of-way. The California Fire Code (Section 4907.2) and ordinances adopted by the Town require that vegetation be cleared 15 feet overhead to allow for safe and unimpeded passage by emergency vehicles. The code also requires 10 feet of clearance from the sides of roads and driveways. This is achieved by cutting all dead grasses to a minimum of 4 inches, removing all tree limbs that are within 10 feet of the ground, providing horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees, and cutting and removing all fire prone plants.

### **One-time Town Abatement Offer**

The Town recognizes that street and public right-of-way abatement can be daunting and expensive for a homeowner. Using Measure F funds, the Town is offering a one-time abatement at no cost to the homeowner to bring our streets into compliance. Participation is voluntary. A homeowner can choose to opt out by contacting the Town Resilience Coordinator at (415) 924-6362 and requesting an opt out form.

If the homeowner chooses **NOT** to participate, the homeowner is still responsible for meeting the compliance requirements detailed above. Failure to comply with abatement requirements will result in a Wildfire Hazard Warning Notice requiring the hazard be abated within 15 days. Residents who fail to comply will be noticed. The Town will hire subcontractors to abate the property to conform with the code. The bill for these services will be sent to the homeowner for payment. Failure to pay may result in a special assessment or lien against the property.

### **Prioritization of Streets**

In collaboration with Central Marin Fire Department, the Town prioritized streets to be abated and started the work on November 2019. The streets identified have been determined as having excessive roadway encroachments creating fire and safety hazards that place residents and first responders at considerable risk in the event of an emergency. Mitigation of these encroachments will also enhance vehicular, pedestrian and bicyclist passage.

***Please note that Casa Buena Drive has been scheduled for abatement on the week of Monday, January 20, 2020 through Friday, January 24, 2020, as time and weather permits.***

If you have any questions regarding this program, please do not hesitate to contact our Resilience Coordinator at (415) 924-6362.



## SMART Temporary Schedule in Effect

From December 14 – 31, the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) will operate with a temporary timetable. This schedule includes service to the new Larkspur station and weekend-only service to the Novato Downtown station. The temporary schedule will allow riders to take advantage of the new expanded train service for trips to and from the San Francisco Bay for commuting, holiday shopping and recreation.



To visit the SMART website, [click here](#). To download a printable version of the temporary schedule, [please click here](#).

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## Learn to Saltwater Fish

Join rangers to learn how to fish on the San Pablo Bay. A limited amount of poles will be available on a first come, first-served basis. A valid California fishing license is required when fishing from the shore, not from the pier.

All skill levels are welcome, and no experience is necessary. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. Don't forget to bring your fishing pole. No pets (except service animals) are allowed at this park. Rain will cancel the event.



No need to RSVP, just show up. Questions: Contact Ranger [Nova Hairston](#).

This event will be held on Saturday, January 4th from 10am to 12pm at the fishing pier in McNears Beach Park in San Rafael (201 Cantera Way). For directions, and more, please click [here](#).





**Work Week of Monday, December 30th to Friday, January 3rd, 2020**

No meetings. Town Hall is closed.



### **Stay Informed**

Remember that you can subscribe to receive notifications on everything happening in Town. Whether it's meeting agendas or community events, we want you to stay informed. Please visit the [Notify Me](#) page and select the topics that interest you!

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