



MARIN VILLAGES WEEKLY UPDATE

May 18, 2021

Dear Marin Villages members and volunteers,

Happy days! You'll notice that's a recurring theme in this Update. First and foremost, I am so happy to announce that John Power joined us yesterday as the new executive director of Marin Villages! Read more about John below under What's Up at the Office.

COVID-19 UPDATE



Yes, it is confusing.

Last week the CDC updated its guidance on mask wearing, giving vaccinated people a lot more leeway to remove their masks. The State of California yesterday said it would NOT align with the new CDC guidelines until June 15. So, as a Marin, CA based organization, we are governed at this point by existing regulations and guidelines at the CA and Marin level. Here is the brief summary of the mask guidelines that apply to residents of Marin, as stated in yesterday's statement from Marin Public Health:

As of May 3, face coverings are no longer required outdoors except at crowded events, and for unvaccinated people, when physical distancing cannot be maintained. In indoor settings outside of one's home, including public transportation and schools, face coverings continue to be required regardless of vaccination status.

This means that for Marin Villages, between now and June 15, we expect all members and volunteers to follow the CA and Marin mask guidelines (not the new CDC guidelines) when engaging in Marin Villages activities and we also are still limiting the size of Marin Villages hosted gatherings to five or six people and in outdoor settings, preferably with only fully vaccinated people attending. Masks are required if unvaccinated individuals are in attendance and social distancing cannot be maintained. We also strongly encourage everyone to rely on common sense and to maintain a healthy sense of caution. As we said earlier this month, we've gotten this far, so let's not blow it in an ill-advised burst of

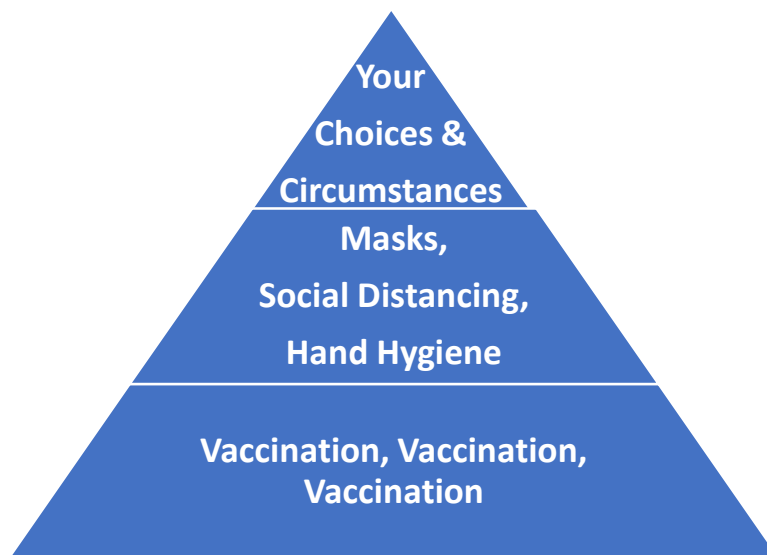
enthusiasm for “getting back to normal”! The health and safety of our members and volunteers is always a priority for us!

The complete list of Marin Villages COVID protocols and adaptations can be found on our website.
https://marin.helpfulvillage.com/editable_pages/10265-marin-village-covid-response-new

The scientific basis for the CDC’s amendment of its guidelines is encouraging, though, especially because some of the studies clearly show that the vaccine is working effectively in those of us in the over-65 cohort, whose immune systems don’t function with the same vigor as the immune systems of younger adults. You can read about the background of the CDC decision here:
<https://www.nbcnews.com/science/science-news/s-science-convinced-cdc-lift-mask-mandates-rcna932>

A critical part of the decision was the fact that vaccinations really are effective in reducing the spread of COVID and more people are getting vaccinated. Hoping everyone reading this already has gotten vaccinated, but if not, call the office and we can help you schedule an appointment. Supplies are good and there are many locations around Marin for getting “shot.” In many cases you can just walk in without an appointment.

Meanwhile, even though happy and “maskless in Marin” days are on the horizon, even when new guidelines come out, remember our Pyramid. Making safe choices is going to be something we all have to continue to think about!



This Marin Public Health site has great info to help you understand which choices are safer than others:
<https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/staying-safe>

IS YOUR BAG READY TO GO?



Although we've had fog and the help of marine humidity in the air this past week, it's still awfully dry. So important to GET READY for the fire season which is now upon us. Not only should your "go bag" or emergency kit be packed and at hand, but you need to put some thought to an evacuation plan, just in case. Thinking ahead can save lives, maybe your own! Review these tips from Fire Safe Marin on how to prepare yourself. <https://www.firesafemarin.org/prepare-yourself>

And what about your landscaping? It's not going anywhere, but making a few changes in your yard can also make a big difference in your and your neighborhood's safety. Check out this recent video on how to maintain fire-smart landscaping. Nothing like being outside and digging around in the dirt to plant something new to make one happy! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQxUyUdO0oc>

90+ AND COUNTING!



Ginna Fleming turns 90 this month, joining these other members in the 90+ club: Cyril Beattie, 93; Isaac Silberman, 94; and Nan Black, 98! Happy, happy birthday to all, and keep on counting!

MARIN VILLAGES PROGRAMS



Not a Drop to Drink? How to Conserve Precious Water

Thursday, May 20, 2:00pm

Join us for a special presentation by a Marin Municipal Water District officer on Marin's drought situation, the restrictions on water usage, and tips on conserving this precious resource. Although

MMWD delivers water to central and southern Marin, the information in this presentation is important for all of us. Please use this link to register: <https://marin.helpfulvillage.com/events/3000-not-a-drop-to-drink%3F-how-to-conserve-precious-water---zoom-event>. Or you can contact the office to receive the Zoom link: (415) 457-4633 or info@marinvillages.org

Marin Villages Donor Recognition Event

Sunday, June 6, 4:00pm [note time correction!]



Join us for a wonderful performance by Nancy Gilliland, who will entertain with songs from the Great American Songbook. We're also planning some fun surprises, **plus a drawing or two or three**. To be eligible for the drawings you need to RSVP in advance—before June 1! Please RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/MVDonorEvent>. And a big thank you to the three wonderful sponsors who stepped up to support this event: The Rotary Club of Tiburon Foundation; Matt Masson, senior specialist with Coldwell Banker; and First Light Home Care in Marin. We are so grateful to them for their support! Acknowledgements and links to their websites are now on our homepage: www.marinvillages.org.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Is There a Doctor in the House? Telehealth and Bridging the Digital Health Divide

Thursday, May 27, 10:00am – 12:30pm

Have you used telemedicine yet? This is the Commission's annual health forum, which is being held digitally this year. Register now for this great free webinar. The times are changing, so learn how to be a part of this new way of delivering healthcare. https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kDIhuf8mSW-Nlb0AaSrTDA

Baseball Day with OLLI

Wednesday, June 2, 10:00am – 12:30pm

For many years the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute has hosted a Baseball Day program. It's moved to Zoom this year, but that shouldn't faze fans of this sport. Join Mick Chantler, Joan Ryan, and Mike Krukow as they take a look back at the 1989 Bay Bridge World Series and also regale fans with some fun facts about the game. (Just how many left-handed players have hit home runs on Tuesdays, anyway?) Cost is \$35. You can sign up by calling (415) 458-3763 or online at <https://www.dominican.edu/academics/adult-and-continuing-education/osher-lifelong-learning-institute-olli/courses-clubs-and-workshops/olli-events>

SPRING FUNDRAISING!

Our spring solicitation is coming along nicely, thank you! Hope you know that every contribution, regardless of size, really helps! This campaign will be running until the end of June, so if you haven't yet clicked on the donate button or mailed a check there's still time. Can we meet or beat the \$60,000 we raised last year? Hope so! We're about 2/3 of the way there as of last Friday.

https://marin.helpfulvillage.com/fundraising_campaigns/8-annual-fund-spring-2021-campaign

WHAT'S UP AT THE OFFICE

We have our bookcase! In fact, two of them. Many thanks to Nancy Fisher and to Virginia Eggleston who answered our call for a bookcase. We are now busily filling up the shelves on two great donated bookcases!

Volunteers: check the dashboard, please. As we return to happier, safer days, requests for services are picking up. Volunteers, please get back into the habit of checking the dashboard regularly so Matt and BJ don't have to send SOS emails out to get requests filled.

We have a new ED



John Power joined the Marin Villages team yesterday as executive director after three decades as a trusted authority and expert to local, state, and national nonprofit, government, corporate and private philanthropy leaders on community-building, nonprofit development, and volunteer engagement. For two decades John led The Volunteer Center in San Francisco and launched the national Board Match. He's Bay Area locally-grown, a graduate of UC Berkeley with an MBA from Santa Clara University, and lives in Kentfield with his partner of 25 years. John is an avid runner, and can often be found on trails throughout Marin. Flag him down if you see him; he'll be glad to stop and say hello. A meet-and-greet via Zoom will be scheduled toward the end of June.

For those of you who missed the announcement in the last Update, Marco Maina who joined us as ED in January had to resign because of a personal family situation. We wish him and his family the best.

Communications are changing

The weekly Things to Do list and Weekly Update are being retired. Starting in June, there will be a regular once-a-month newsletter from Marin Villages, in addition to the local village newsletters. If we need a COVID update in between, of course we'll do that, but hoping that once we get to June the

need for more frequent updates will be considerably less and we will all soon be out and about and not needing all those suggestions for “staying at home” entertainment.

Thanks again to all who sent in ideas to be included in these communications. Going forward, if you have suggestions, you can still send them in to the office, but just be aware of timing. The Marin Villages newsletter will be sent out on the second Tuesday of the month.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

It's been fun (for the most part 😊) coming up with our list of Things to Do every week for the past 14 months, as well as trying to make sense of all the COVID information and misinformation and put it into plain English for these weekly updates. But, have to admit I'm looking forward to putting my attention to a few other “things to do” every weekend. Besides, it's hard to disagree with the sentiment in this great Mitchell Miller number of “Happy Days Are Here Again”: it does seem that happy days are at least much closer, if not fully here yet. Let's all sing along loudly and, as the saying goes, “From our mouth(s)...to God's ear!”

Happy Days Are Here Again – Mitchell Miller: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75V3H-FXf78>

Cherie Sorokin, President