

*Schedule of Meetings*

*April*

April 24 - Planning Commission meeting, 7 P.M.

*May*

May 1 - Community Services Commission meeting, 6 P.M.  
May 6 & 20 - Youth Commission meeting, 7 P.M.  
May 7 & 21 - City Council meeting, 7 P.M.  
May 8 & 22 - Planning Commission meeting, 7 P.M.

*June*

June 4 & 18 - City Council meeting, 7 P.M.  
June 5 - Community Services Commission meeting, 6 P.M.  
June 12 & 26 - Planning Commission meeting, 7 P.M.  
June 17 - Youth Commission meeting, 7 P.M.

*July*

July 2 & 16 - City Council meeting, 7 P.M.  
July 3 - Community Services Commission meeting, 6 P.M.  
July 10 & 24 - Planning Commission meeting, 7 P.M.

*City Phones*

Center for Creative Arts Box Office . . . 428-7664  
Citizen Service Center . . . . . 428-7661  
City Clerk . . . . . 428-7384  
City Hall at the Mall . . . . . 428-7714  
City Manager . . . . . 428-7400  
C.O.R.P. (Citizens Observe and Report Patrol) . . . . . 428-7732  
Fairfield Observer . . . . . 428-7400  
Job Hotline . . . . . 428-7396  
Police Department (non-emergency calls) . . . . . 428-7300  
Recreation:  
Community Services Registration . . . 428-7714  
Rush Ranch . . . . . 421-1351  
Senior Center . . . . . 428-7421  
Transit . . . . . 422-BUSS  
Trees, Streets, Maintenance . . . . . 428-7407  
Utility Bills/Service . . . . . 428-7346  
Volunteer Services . . . . . 428-7767

A publication of the City of Fairfield, 1000 Webster St., Fairfield, CA 94533, 707-428-7400.  
Nancy Huston, editor; Gayle Fraser, graphic designer. Also contributing to this issue were Ike Anderson, Ray Chong, Ron Collins, Paula Diaz, Monica Finigan, Ed Gebing, Bob Leland, Ruth McDaniel, Betsy Renner, Lark Solis and Colleen Wirtz. Printed by Zelinko Printing Co.

City Council  
Karin MacMillan, Mayor  
Harry T. Price, Vice-Mayor  
Jack Batson  
John English  
Marilyn Farley  
Kevin O'Rourke, City Manager  
Gina Merrell, City Clerk  
Oscar G. Reyes, Jr., City Treasurer  
Visit our Internet Web site online at...

EVENTS TO REMEMBER

**EARTH DAY**  
"Recycling Around Your World"

April 20, 2002  
11 A.M. - 4 P.M.  
Civic Center Lake  
For information, call 428-7489.



**Christmas in July Craft Fair**  
at the Senior Center  
Saturday, July 13, 2002  
For more information, call 428-7421.

*Sports*

Girl's Softball Tournaments  
THE R&B CLASSIC  
May 18-19, 2002  
THE CLASS ACT  
June 1 & 2  
HALL OF FAME QUALIFIER  
June 8 & 9, 2002  
NOR-CAL STATE GIRL'S JUNIOR OLYMPICS "A" Softball Championships  
June 22 & 23, 2002  
THE EXPLOSION  
July 6 - 7, 2002  
For information, call 428-7676.  
ADULT SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS  
April 20 & 21 and April 27 & 28  
May 4 & 5, 2002  
For information, call 428-7584.

*Theatre*

Magical Moonshine Theatre  
April 30, 2002 - 7 P.M.  
Crystal Gayle  
May 17, 2002 - 8 P.M.  
John Astin in  
Edgar Allan Poe  
Once Upon a Midnight  
June 7, 2002 - 8 P.M.  
For information, call 428-7664.



City of Fairfield  
1000 Webster Street  
Fairfield, California 94533-4883

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Fairfield, CA 94533  
Permit #174

**FAIRFIELD CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKET**

The Farmers Market will be held downtown every Thursday beginning May 2, 2002 through October 3, 2002 from 4 P.M. - 8 P.M. (except on July 4th). Concerts will be held the third Thursday of each month from 6 P.M. - 8 P.M. beginning May 16th through September 19th. Additional concerts will be held May 30th and August 29th. ♦



*Youth Activities*

Nightlight Teen Dance Club  
May 3 and June 7, 2002  
For information, call 428-7660.  
Age of Aquarius Eighth Grade Celebration Dance  
Friday, June 14, 2002  
For information, call 428-7660.  
Dad and Daughter Date Night  
Saturday, June 16, 2002  
For information, call 428-7613.

*Community Events*

Laurel Creek Park Playground Maintenance Day  
Saturday, April 20, 2002  
For information, call 436-7300.  
Solano Community Symphony League Home Tour  
Saturday, May 18, 2002 - 11 A.M. - 3 P.M.  
For information, call 447-7275.  
INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE AND BBQ  
July 4, 2002  
10 A.M. - 3 P.M.  
For information, call 422-0103.

**Fairfield's Mission Statement**  
We are committed to responding to the changing needs of our community, to providing superior quality public service, and to creating a distinctive place to live through innovation, professionalism and efficient use of resources.



**Bicycles and Motorized Scooters:  
Safety Laws for Riders!**

With the arrival of Spring and nicer weather, people are riding bicycles or motorized scooters to get around. Bicycles and scooters are fun, but they can be dangerous if not used properly. Because some riders are not aware of operating rules, they are more likely to be involved in collisions resulting in injuries. Below are guidelines in proper operation of bicycles and motorized scooters.



A young local bicyclist, Brendan, rides on the right side of the street.

As of January 1, 2000, new laws changed the rules for motor scooter use. In order to ride a motorized scooter, the rider must be at least 16 years old, wear a bicycle helmet (regardless of age) and not carry any passengers. Neither bicycles nor motorized scooters are subject to laws requiring driver licensing or financial responsibility. They are subject to all provisions concerning accident reporting, alcoholic beverage or drug violations, and driving under the

influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs.

A motorized scooter is required to have certain safety features. There must be a switch to automatically disengage the motor when the brakes are applied. The power switch must also disengage the motor when released by the operator. Brakes are required on both bicycles and motorized scooters. They must be capable of skidding one wheel. The lighting requirements for night use are the same for both. A white light is required on the front with a visual range of 300 feet. Red reflectors are required on the rear, while white or yellow reflectors are required on the sides.

Riding rules for a motorized scooter are similar to those for a bicycle. A motorized

scooter rider must ride on the right side of the street as close to the curb as practical, except when necessary to avoid objects, animals, vehicles or surface hazards.

Bicycles and motorized scooters may not be ridden on the sidewalk. There are no road restrictions for riding a bicycle. However, motorized scooters cannot be ridden on a roadway with a speed limit in excess of 25 mph, unless the roadway has a marked bicycle lane. Both bicycles and scooters must use the bicycle lane anytime one is present.



Heather Wireman shows off a motorized scooter courtesy of Fairfield Cycle Center.

There is a difference between bicycles and motorized scooters in making turns or crossing roadways. The bicycle may operate the same as a car and may use left turn pocket lanes. On the other hand, the scooter must operate like a pedestrian. The rider must dismount and cross the road on foot.

For further information on these safety guidelines, please contact Officer Ed Gebing at 428-7318. ♦

**Budget Update-Concerns for the Future**

In February 2002, City Council received a mid-year report from Director of Finance, Bob Leland. The outlook for the budget for the current year is good, however, the City is facing an uncertain future with revenues and expenditures in the coming year due to the following factors: 1) the recession; 2) the State budget deficit; 3) a recent State Supreme Court ruling; and 4) rising labor costs.

An economic recession causes a reduction in City tax revenues, and the impact of the lost revenues is delayed due to the remittance process. The State of California is currently struggling to balance a budget

with a projected \$17.5 billion dollar deficit. In order to balance the State budget, legislators could eliminate the allocation of local revenues such as vehicle license fees. Fairfield could lose up to \$4 million dollars annually if it lost these State revenues. A recent court ruling has also challenged cities' abilities to collect taxes that were adopted by Council action. As a result, voters must ratify Fairfield's utility user tax. This 2% utility user tax is applied to gas, electric, telephone and cable services and raises \$3 million annually for the general fund. The general fund pays for operations of all City departments and unless voters

approve the tax in November, this tax revenue will be lost. Finally, labor costs for employee salaries have increased due to cost increases from the State Retirement System.

To respond to these concerns, the City plans to phase-in budget reductions to offset higher costs and will create contingency plans if it is faced with actual reductions in revenues. The City will continue to monitor the economy and the State legislative decisions so it can be best prepared to handle the financial uncertainty ahead. The City will continue to keep the community informed of its decisions. ♦

## Take a Ride with Fairfield/Suisun Transit

The Fairfield/Suisun Transit (FST) system provides public transportation in Solano, Yolo and Contra Costa counties. In 2001, 951,000 fixed route bus passengers and 50,000 elderly and handicapped passengers took a ride with FST. A recent survey shows local residents are satisfied with FST services. Eighty-nine (89%) of the respondents gave local bus service a high rating. Seventy-four (74%) of respondents rated commuter bus service favorable. The Public Works Department's Transportation



In 2001, 951,000 fixed route bus passengers and 50,000 elderly and handicapped passengers took a ride with FST.

Division is pleased to offer these services to the community and encourages residents to utilize public transportation. Listed below is information on FST routes and paratransit services.

**FST Routes**  
The Flyer is a fixed route service with seven local and three intercity/commuter routes. The intercity/commuter routes consist of: **Route 20** traveling between Fairfield and Vacaville, **Route 30** traveling between Fairfield and University of California, Davis

(via Vacaville and Dixon) and **Route 40** traveling between Vacaville and Pleasant Hill BART Station (via Fairfield). For more information on FST routes, please access the City's Web site or call **422-BUSS**.

### Paratransit Services

FST also offers demand-responsive (paratransit) service including Dial-a-Ride Transit (DART), Senior Volunteer Driver Program and Reduced Fare Taxi. DART operates within Fairfield and Suisun City and provides transportation for handicapped persons (as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act). Senior Volunteer Driver Program operates in Fairfield and offers restricted trips to persons 50 years or older. Reduced Fare Taxi provides trips through local taxi companies to persons 60 years or older. For more information on program qualifications, please call the **Transportation Division at 428-7635**. ♦

## Community Services Foundation Seeks New Members

The Fairfield Community Services Foundation, a public-benefit organization founded in 1994, is seeking new members. Its primary goal is to provide financial and volunteer support for City parks and recreation, the arts and community services. It serves all segments of the community including youth, families and senior citizens.



The Place to be After Three is just one of the many projects the Foundation supports.

Though supportive of City projects and services, the Foundation is an autonomous organization. Its all-volunteer Board of Directors is

comprised of community members committed to improving the community. Board meetings are held at noon on the first Thursday of each month in the Fairfield Community Center located at 1000 Kentucky Street and are open to the public.

### Foundation Projects

The Foundation has committed much of its efforts to supporting these community projects: Family Day in the Park, The Place to be After Three, Fairfield Senior Center, Foundation Assist-A-Grad Scholarships, Low-income Youth Recreation Scholarships, Child Haven, Midnight Shakespeare and the City of Fairfield Rotary Skate Park (opens 2002).

### How the Foundation Benefits the Community

The Foundation's commitment to supporting local public parks, recreational activities, the arts and community services enhances Fairfield's quality of life in many ways such as enhanced civic pride, increased social opportunities, increased family-oriented activities and improved public parks.

### Donations and Membership

The Foundation underwrites its projects largely through tax-deductible donations and memberships. Becoming a member reflects your commitment to the Foundation's goal of "Building a Better Community." For more information, please call the **Department of Community Services at 428-7465**. ♦

## City Receives \$1.1 Million in Affordable Housing and Rehabilitation Funds

The Department of Planning and Development will receive \$1.1 million in HOME grant funds from the State Department of Housing and Community Development. The funds will be used towards the City of Fairfield's first-time homebuyer program and a citywide rental rehabilitation program.

The first-time homebuyer funds will assist approximately 15 households. To date, the City has assisted 161 lower-income households to become homeowners. The City is planning to use a portion of the rental rehabilitation funding to improve eight second-story apartments in a mixed-use building at the corner of Texas and Jackson Streets.

Since Fairfield is one of only seven participants in the State classified as a "good performer" in both program and project categories for the HOME Program, the



One of the many projects being funded is the rehabilitation of eight apartments on the corner of Texas and Jackson Streets.

amount of the grant award is significant. In the past five years, the City of Fairfield has received over \$5.7 million in HOME grants.

The Department is proud to be the recipient of these HOME funds, so it can continue its affordable housing and rehabilitation efforts. For more information, please call **Planning and Development at 428-7462**. ♦

## Home Improvement Loans for Low-income Households

Does your roof need to be replaced, but you can't afford a roofer? Are you facing high heating bills but can't afford to install a new, energy-efficient heating/air conditioning system?

The Department of Planning and Development provides low-interest loans for home repairs and improvements to low-income households. Owner-occupied single-family homes and mobile homes are eligible for programs funded through the Community Development Block Grant and CALHome.

Eligible families must have incomes at or below 80% of median income. For example, a family of four must have an income that does not exceed \$44,500 per year. For more information, please call **Neighborhood Revitalization at 428-7688**. ♦

## K-9 Officers Honored

In February 2002, the Police Department held a ceremony to honor K-9 Officer **Troy Freeman** and K-9 dogs, **Cito** and **Brend**, for their dedication and contributions to the K-9 unit.

Working for the unit for 12 years, Officer Freeman was committed to its purpose by working more nights and weekends than most. Following the vision of canine founders Officers **Walter Scott** and **Brad Wold**, Freeman helped to further develop the unit. Freeman explained he worked weekends and nights to be with the dogs. "It was a privilege," he said.

Cito was Freeman's first dog. Cito started the program in October 1989 until his heroic death in January 1993, when he

sacrificed himself to save Officer Freeman. Brend worked from April 1993 until his death on December 24, 2001 of intestinal complications. Brend conducted many searches and found numerous suspects.

The City appreciates Officer Freeman's dedication and commitment to the K-9 unit. Cito and Brend's contributions to the safety of the community are respected and honored as well. ♦



Pictured Officer Troy Freeman with K-9 dog Brend

## At the End of the Day Please...Cart Them Away!



Since the start of the new garbage service in February, the City has received an increase in complaint calls regarding garbage carts being left in front and side yards after collection day. Carts that are not properly stowed away and are visible from the street can have a negative impact on the appearance of neighborhoods. The City Code requires "all containers and receptacles shall be removed from the place of collection prior to 10 P.M. of the day the containers have been emptied. Such containers shall be removed to a storage location, which is not visible from any public [street], excluding alleys" (Sec. 9.510). The City's Code Enforcement Office will actively address violations of the code, up to and including fines. So please remember to "cart them away at the end of the day." For more information, please call **Code Enforcement at 428-7762**. ♦

## Releasing of Personal Information: A Right to Privacy

Often when reporting traffic accidents, the local media has stated, "it is the practice of the Fairfield Police Department not to release the names of the drivers." This is a Police practice due to California Vehicle Code section 20012.

There are many codes that govern the release of records. California Vehicle Code section 20012 specifically addresses traffic collision information. The Code states the collision report is "for the confidential use of the Department of Motor Vehicles and the California Highway Patrol." It also states the report shall be released to the driver, injured

party or an insurance company. The Code does not reference the press or general public as parties allowed to receive any information. The Police Department believes the disclosure of personal information in traffic collisions would be a violation of the Vehicle Code and a citizen's right to privacy.

Police information authorized for release to the public (Government Code section 6250) is located at the Police Department. Interested parties may request to see the press binder containing information on adult arrests, press releases and daily police logs. The Police Department is located at 1000 Webster Street, Fairfield. ♦

## City of Fairfield Hosts ASA Softball Championships in June

In January 2002, the City of Fairfield received the honor of becoming the host site for the Amateur Softball Association's (ASA) 2002 Nor-Cal State Junior Olympic "A" Girl's Fast Pitch Softball Championships. The tournament is scheduled **Saturday and Sunday, June 22 - 23, 2002**.

The Community Services Department anticipates over 70 teams will be traveling to Fairfield to participate in the 2002 Championships. The City will benefit from the potential economic impact of hosting an event of this size with guests' expenditures for hotels, food, gas and entertainment.

Community Services' staff has put forth a tremendous effort to make girl's fast pitch softball a tradition in Fairfield. Staff's commitment to quality and professionalism has been rewarded with this selection. Chosen as host site for the 2002 Championships is an honor, because of the selection process. Rather than ASA selecting the Championship host site, teams select the location.

The City is excited that Fairfield is becoming the Northern California destination for girl's fast pitch softball. Residents are encouraged to attend a few games and enjoy the fun. ♦



Fairfield is becoming the Northern California destination for girl's fast pitch softball.