



# MFC NEWS

*“Building Understanding”*

MFC will find out the truth about buildings and answer the hard questions.

Spring 2020

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## What's New at MFC...

**M**yles's daughter Julia had her second son in December 2019. Congratulations to the Corcorans and welcome to the newest member of the family.

Also in 2019, Lisa Ellis celebrated 25 years with MFC and Barb Mummey celebrated 21 years. Congratulations, Lisa and Barb, and thank you for your commitment to MFC!

Welcome to Tony Demma, Inspector/Consultant II, and Elizabeth Arzouni, our Consulting Coordinator. Tony joined MFC in December 2018, and Elizabeth in January 2019.

Read more about changes at MFC under “Wisdom Corner” below.

### COVID-19

We are working from home!

We are being very careful. We hope that you are too.

We know that there is plenty out there on this subject - so we will say no more than:

Please take good care of yourselves. We the People can do this.



## Quote of the Day

“When I’m working on a problem, I never think about beauty. But when I’ve finished, if the solution is not beautiful I know it’s wrong.”

Buckminster Fuller



## Wisdom Corner

By Myles F. Corcoran

Our dear Micah no longer works at MFC. This past October he was diagnosed with ALS, after months of increasing physical troubles. He had, necessarily, stopped working prior to his diagnosis.

Micah Rodler, as you probably know, is a master water resistive designer, communicator about and scientist of buildings. He is very much missed here at MFC and by all those who had the privilege to work with him.

You may not know that he is, even now, an active volunteer in the community, an avid outdoors man, a wonderful father, husband and householder. He is fair and ethical to his marrow.

We encourage you to consider donating to his life’s needs. As he told us: “I named my GoFund Me page “Living with ALS”

[Link to Micah's GoFundMe page.](#)

In the spirit of all the many times he and I took off our work tool belts and philosophized:

This is it, now is the time. We are finite beings. Why not see the beauty and take in the love that teems in our world. Be as grateful and kind as your temperament allows. What I leave behind is what I "build" now. May I, like the ancient King Gilgamesh, who failed to conquer death, look on what I have done and see there some good that will remain.



## **Building Understanding**

Instead of some wisdom about specific building issues, which we usually put in this section, I will ponder out loud about what this 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary means to me personally.

I came up with the tag line "Building Understanding" near the same time I started MFC on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1990.

It turns out that is what I have done - I have built, in me, a deeper understanding of our built environment.

And, as my tag line is meant to imply, I have tried, with my very capable staff, to build understanding between people having disputes about buildings.

Still looking for ever more peace in our times. For this building geek it has been a wonderful way to earn my way.

I am so grateful for all of the good people who have joined me on the team over the years - all that good work! So many good memories and feelings.

I am especially fortunate to get to work now with the current team. What a lucky man I am!

And we have had the very good fortune to get to work with a great many fine people these last 30 years. I am grateful to them all.

And, for this geek, I have had ongoing pleasure in my work with buildings. As we sometimes tell our clients: The building is our client.

From childhood "forts" to large public works, and everything in between, I have had the very good fortune to meet and learn from thousands of buildings.

This morning I read about a large 25,000 year old building made out of Mammoth bones - we humans are natural born builders.

Finally, as folks all over our planet are staying inside of the buildings where they live, in a vast community of caring for each other - to stop the spread of COVID-19 - I am grateful for what we have built.

Build on brothers and sisters - build on.



## **Tips of the Days**

Due to the current crisis facing the world, it seems appropriate to offer some tips and advice related to this.

If you are currently involved in a construction project, you may have to be patient. At this writing only certain construction projects can move forward. We have pasted the wording regarding construction here in Santa Cruz County at the end of this Newsletter.

Supply chains, including those for construction materials, have been disrupted, especially imported items.

Suppliers are already feeling this burden and it's passing down to contractors. You might need to use more expensive alternatives if the originally planned materials are not available, or be patient. Construction is now being restricted to only that which is essential, so your project may just have to stop for a while. Once things get going again there may be reduced labor due to related illnesses.

The MFC Team is fluxing with the situation and working remotely to be available and to keep projects ongoing to the best of our abilities.

As we self isolate, its all too easy to fall into the routine of being nonproductive while watching and listening to too much media. Here are some ideas that can help you and your family to be productive, stay motivated, and even get things done that you've always wanted to accomplish.

### **Plan a future home improvement**

Though this might not be the best time to start a home improvement project, it may be a great time to plan it.

Put together an online scrap book of ideas. Measure, draw, and make material or to do lists. Planning takes time and that might be just what you have right now. This could be a kitchen remodel, rebuilding a fence, or some interior redecorating.

When the time comes to start, you'll be ready to go.

If the economic slow down being predicted is accurate, construction may be more affordable in the future than it was recently.

### **Spring cleaning**

Now is a great time to use for spring cleaning. The best place to start might be your refrigerator and pantry. Figure out what is not getting used or is getting old and find ways to use them. Put items in the front or make a list as a reminder. Get creative with ingredients that have been there forever.

How about tackling the clothes closet, work/garden shed, or kids toys? Any effort will help bring more sanity to your daily life and make this shelter in place productive and therefore more pleasant.

### **Gardening**

The weather is warming up. It's a great time to get outside and work in the yard.

Remove those unwanted plants that have been flourishing from the recent rains. It's also the perfect time to plant your spring and summer garden. If you live in a small space try a raised bed or planting in pots.

If you don't have the need supplies some nurseries offer delivery and others may be adding that service now.

### **Stay Healthy**

Getting outside in the clean air (so much less vehicle exhaust) and sun can be as good as it feels for your body and mind.

Stay active. Spend time with your family, friends, neighbors and community -  
- staying six feet distant and following the simple safe distancing rules.

Be aware of your mental calm. We here at MFC look around with pride - knowing that many millions of us the people are slowing this virus down. Not just here but world wide people are distancing - not socially but physically.

It is good. When we get a vaccine, which may be sooner than initial projections, we can all come out of our homes and be proud of what we have accomplished. We will get back to work, if we had been out of work, as a stronger more together people.

We recognize that one of the blessings we have discovered during this crisis is that we have more time for togetherness with those who are the closest to us in our lives. Whether in person or electronically. In our “normal lives” we sometimes spend more waking hours with our co-workers than our house mates, whoever they may be.

Our time is often consumed with work, school, and other obligations. We all may be staying at home for a couple more months, so we may as well take advantage of the benefits and stay positive.

## **Allowed Construction During Stay at Home Santa Cruz County**

*“The Order specifically lists the kinds of construction projects allowed.:*

- 1. Projects immediately necessary to the maintenance, operation, or repair of Essential Infrastructure;*
- 2. Projects associated with Healthcare Operations, including creating or expanding Healthcare Operations, provided that such construction is directly related to the COVID-19 response;*

*3. Affordable housing that is or will be income-restricted, including multi-unit or mixed-use developments containing at least 10% income-restricted units;*

*4. Public works projects if specifically designated as an Essential Governmental Function by the lead governmental agency;*

*5. Shelters and temporary housing, but not including hotels or motels;*

*6. Projects immediately necessary to provide critical non-commercial services to individuals experiencing homelessness, elderly persons, persons who are economically disadvantaged, and persons with special needs;*  
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*7. Construction strictly necessary to ensure that existing construction sites that must be shut down under this Order are left in a safe and secure manner, but only to the extent necessary to do so; and*

*8. Construction or repair necessary to ensure that residences and buildings containing Essential Businesses are safe, sanitary, or habitable to the extent such construction or repair cannot reasonably be delayed”*



## About MFC News

MFC News is the e-Newsletter published almost quarterly by the Editorial team at Myles F. Corcoran Construction Consulting, Inc. (MFC) located in Santa Cruz, California. It is circulated to our colleagues in the construction and construction-related fields. Visit our website [www.mfcbuild.com](http://www.mfcbuild.com) for more information and testimonials.

Please help us make this a “Construction Community” endeavor by sending us your feedback, comments, wisdom, and ideas for future issues. Call (831) 476-4502 or contact us at: <http://www.mfcbuild.com/contact/>