

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 | Issue 4 | April 2014

Mayor's Corner



Beach Kuhl

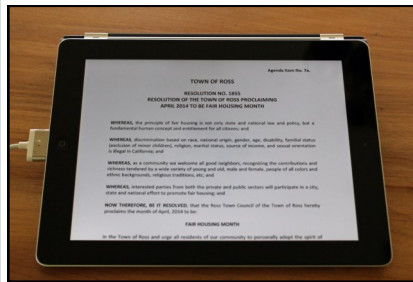
Recent publicity involving the Branson School has suggested the possibility of that longtime Ross institution leaving the town and relocating at the Golden Gate Seminary premises in the Strawberry area of Mill Valley. In recent months representatives of the Town have met with the Head of School and members of the school's board of trustees to discuss the school's relationship with the town. Over several years there have been discussions of the school's impact on traffic and parking and the school's efforts to alleviate that problem by arranging off-campus parking and the use of shuttle buses to transport students to the campus. Those efforts continue. The school has suggested that the limi-

Continued on Page 2

HIGHLIGHTS

- 3. Planning
- 3. MMWD Drought Update
- 3. Ross Garden Tour
- 4. Aging Well in Ross
- 4. Ross Heritage Roses
- 5. Calendar

Town Council Goes High-Tech



In the Town's ongoing effort to upgrade its technology, the Council began using iPads at the April meeting. This technology enables the Council to view and annotate Council meeting agenda documents on their iPad screen, and reduces the amount of paper generated for each Council meeting. The Council will

still review plans for Planning projects in hard copy, as they are best viewed on large-sized paper.

iPads and tablets are very mainstream now, particularly for use at meetings, and are already being widely used at many cities and agencies. Some of the Council already owned personal iPads which made the transition for some very easy. ■

Town Earns "StormReady" Designation



The Town recently completed a set of criteria necessary to earn the StormReady distinction. "StormReady encourages jurisdictions to take a fresh approach to improving local hazardous weather and flood operations and public awareness," said Logan Johnson, of the National Weather Service (NWS). "The Town has taken an excellent coordinated approach to severe weather and flood concerns, and shown great dedication to achieve StormReady recognition that directly benefits their citizens. This program rewards their hard work and sincere partnership with the National Weather Service."

The nationwide community preparedness program uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle local severe weather and flooding threats. The program is voluntary and provides

Continued on Page 2



Mayor's Corner - *continued from page 1*

tation of the student body to 320 students (imposed by initiative and vote of the residents in 1978) presents economic problems for the school's continuing viability. For those interested a recent letter to the school's alumni giving more detail about the issues under consideration has been posted on the school's website. It may be some time before any decisions are reached on any of these issues. The council will be closely following developments and will continue to keep our residents advised.

On another subject, there have been several recent instances of violation of tree protection rules, construction traffic management and resale inspection requirements; a reminder about these matters seems in order.



Ross' tree canopy is a treasure of the Town, so there are regulations in place governing tree protection. However there have been several recent instances of people removing or trimming trees without obtaining proper Town permits. While most tree companies working here know that there are required permits, there are some, especially from out of town, who may not know. If you are having tree work done, please review the [Tree Alteration/Removal Fact Sheet](#) information on the website or contact Senior Planner Elise Semonian at 415-453-1453, ext. 121, esemonian@townofross.org for more information.

There also have been issues recently about traffic control at home remodel sites. For significant projects, the Town requires that the property owner provide a construction traffic management plan for vehicles at the construction site, setting forth hours of operation, minimizing disruption to neighbors and insuring access for emergency vehicles. Residents with a significant project should make sure their general contractor or project manager adheres to the approved plan.

Finally, residents who are planning to list their homes for sale should remember that they are required to arrange a Town resale inspection when the home is listed. If the home does not sell within six months, a re-inspection is required. To arrange an inspection, call the Building Department at 415-453-1453, ext.106.

Attending to these items in advance will help to insure a smooth project. ■

Town Earns "StormReady" Designation *continued from page 1*

communities with clear-cut advice from a partnership between the local NWS forecast office and state and local emergency managers. StormReady started in 1999 with seven communities in Tulsa, OK. There are now more than 960 StormReady communities in 48 states.

Police Chief Erik Masterson said "The StormReady program enhances flood warning preparedness within town. A lot of work goes into preparedness as StormReady and we look forward to further cooperative efforts with the NWS to raise local weather and flood preparedness programs in Town." To be recognized as StormReady, a community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center
- Have multiple ways to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts, and to alert the public
- Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally
- Promotes public readiness through community outreach and education
- Develops a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

"The key element of our mission is to help reduce loss of life and property from severe weather, and StormReady helps create better prepared communities," said Johnson. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA's) National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warning in the US and its territories. The NWS operates the most advanced weather, flood warning, and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy. ■



PLANNING



Elise Semonian

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the April Council meeting. For more information on each planning application, click [here](#). The minutes for this meeting will be available at www.townofross.org after adoption at the May 2014 Council meeting.

An audio file of this meeting will be posted on the [website](#) the day after the meeting.

Address: 3 El Camino Bueno
Applicant: Jerry & Jennifer Dal Bozzo
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-2 (Brekhus recused, Hoertkorn absent)

Address: 87 Laurel Grove Avenue
Applicant: Morgan Properties, Inc.
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-1-1 (Small opposed, Hoertkorn absent)

Address: 10 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: Jon & Linda Gruber
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-2 (Russell recused, Hoertkorn absent)

Address: 86 Sir Francis Drake Blvd/Tree Violation
Applicant: John Crane
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-2 (Brekhus recused, Hoertkorn absent)

MMWD

Drought Update



April 3, 2014 Update

Reservoir levels have increased to about 80% of capacity with the recent storm dropping 5.03 inches of rain. Our annual total rainfall to date is now 31.94 inches compared to the average of 47.05 for this date.

Please continue to conserve to make our supplies last. The 25% voluntary water use reduction request is still in place. Thanks to your conservation efforts water usage is **down 22%** compared with this same week last year. Keep conserving to reach a goal of 25%.

RESERVOIR LEVELS AS OF MARCH 30, 2014

Reservoir Water Level*

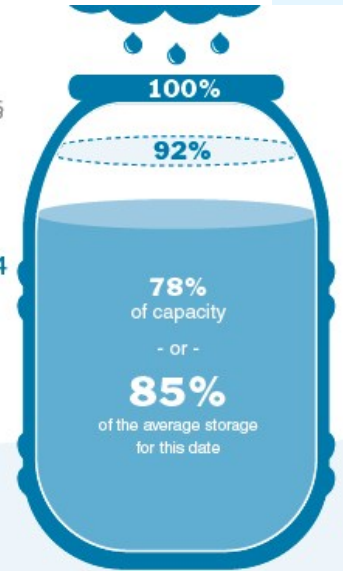
Total Storage Capacity
79,566 acre-feet (AF)[§]

Average Storage for this Date
73,211 AF (92%)

Current Storage as of 3/30/2014
62,207 AF (78%)

*MMWD also purchases water from the Sonoma County Water Agency

§One acre-foot = 325,851 gallons



Saturday, May 10
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Once again our community opens its gardens to visitors far and wide for the 18th Beyond the Garden Gate tour.

Preview this year's four beautiful gardens and buy tickets at rossgardentour.org.



Ross School thanks the homeowners, volunteers, guests, and sponsors who make this event a success year after year. All proceeds benefit Ross School Fine Arts programs.



Reminder to Homeowners & Contractors to Always Call 8-1-1 Before Digging



Ahead of the 2014 construction season, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) reminds California homeowners and contractors to make a free call to 8-1-1 at least two business days before any digging project. The free service helps get all

underground utility lines properly marked for projects big and small. Know what's below before you dig - no project is too small. Please share this with your contractors. Go to <http://www.pge.com/en/safety/diggingyard/callbeforeyoudig/index.page> for more information.

Aging Well in Ross



The Marin County Health and Human Services Office of Aging and Adult Services has a wealth of information and resources for older adults in the county.

Check out their website at: www.marinhhs.org/aging-adult-services. Of special interest, on Thursday, May 8, 2014 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., the Marin County Commission on Aging will host the 10th Annual Healthy Aging Symposium at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 101 McInnis Parkway, San Rafael. The theme will be "Longevity: Imaging the Potential and Promise" with a number of outstanding guest speakers. Check out the website for more information about this event and also look for the winter issue of the Great Age, an informative and interesting newsletter of the Marin County Commission on Aging on this website under Publication.

Ross Heritage Roses in Bloom



Two, highly visible species of heritage roses growing in Ross are just coming into annual bloom. Both have historical significance to Ross residents.

Before the Lagunitas Bridge was replaced, an enormous climbing rose identified as Fortune's Double Yellow and also known as Gold of Ophir, spread up into the adjoining oak tree at the northeast side along the Creek. Its bronzed yellow blooms, with a tinge of copper marked the arrival of spring. The rose bush undoubtedly was a hardy survivor from the Shotwell Family gardens of whose estate the Town purchased in 1927, and became the site of Town Hall.

When the old bridge was replaced the massive rose bush had to be torn out but fortunately, Robert Maccario of the Public Works Department, took a number of cuttings that he grew and has replanted along the creek bed. They will be blooming soon and within a couple of years will cover the entire fence.

Two more heritage rose bushes are in bloom about midway on the west side of Shady Lane, between Lagunitas Road and Ames Avenue. They are on either side of the stone pillars that marked the estate entrance of James and Sarah Coffin, who built their family home in 1890. The roses now have grown high into the nearby trees and their impressive white blossoms are beginning to cascade down. They are known as *Fortuniana*, a vigorous climber that was introduced to the United States from China in 1850.

If you are aware of any other heritage roses visible from public streets, please contact Gary Scales (415-453-7373 or e-mail garrettscales@comcast.net) of the Marin Rose Society and Moya-Ross Historical Society, and we will try to identify them and add them to the list of heritage blooming roses.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Ross, CA 94957

Administration 415.453.1453 x105
Building 415.453.1453 x106
Planning 415.453.1453 x121
Police 415.453.1453, option 2
Public Works 415.453.1453 x106
Ross Valley Fire 415.258.4686
Town Manager 415.453.1453 x107



ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2014

Apr 10 6:00 pm Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
 Apr 29 9:00-1:00 pm Special Council Meeting - Budget Workshop, MAGC Livermore Rm
 Apr 29 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

MAY 2014

May 8 6:00 pm Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
 May 10 9:00-3:00 pm Ross Garden Tour, Ross Common
 May 12 2:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting, Town Hall
 May 22 6:00 pm Special Council Meeting - Budget Public Hearing, Town Hall
 May 26 -- -- Town Hall offices closed for Memorial Day
 May 27 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

JUNE 2014

Jun 12 6:00 pm Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
 Jun 24 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
 Jun 26 5:00-7:00 pm Marin Art & Garden Center Summer Concert, 30 Sir Francis Drake

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