

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Beach Kuhl

At its May special meeting, the Council approved the fiscal year 2015 budget. It totals nearly \$9 million and for the first time includes recreation services. It is a pleasure to report that it is a balanced budget based on ongoing revenues (rather one-time revenues). A summary called "The Budget in Brief" is also available. To view the budget and the summary on the Town website click on the following link: [FY15 Adopted Budget](#).

The June meeting is the last one for Council Member Rupert Russell. Council Member Russell, who served as Mayor in 2012-2013, will be honored tonight with a resolution by the Council for his four years of dedicated service

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HIGHLIGHTS

2. Upcoming Election for RVPA
2. Besgrove Memorial Bench
3. Planning
3. Public Works Reminder
3. MERA Proposed Parcel Tax
4. SFD/Lagunitas Project Schedule
4. Public Safety
5. Calendar

Council Member Russell Commended

Mayor Kuhl presented Council member Rupert Russell with a Resolution and commemorative gift for his years of service on the Council.



Council member Russell was elected to the Council in 2010 and served as Mayor from July 2012 to July 2013. He represented the Town and Council on numerous committees, boards and commissions, and spearheaded the passage of the Attics and Basements ordinance and the Nonconforming Regulations ordinance. Council member Russell has been a staunch advocate for consistent application of Town rules and regulations to all concerned and believed this was an essential element to all being treated fairly and equitably.

Council member Russell's term will officially end once incoming Council -elect member Elizabeth Robbins is sworn into office at the July 10th Council meeting. ■

Ross 4th of July Celebration



Mark your calendars for Friday, July 4th, for the annual Ross 4th of July celebration. The festivities will begin at 11:00 a.m. with the parade followed by a picnic lunch under the trees on the Ross Common. Food trucks will be available offering tasty selections for lunch. The PTA will continue their tradition of \$1.00 beverages, and Ed Dong, "Master of Fun", will lead the children in some good old-fashioned games. Contact Elizabeth Brekhus at elizabethb@brekhus.com if you would like to participate in the parade or would like to volunteer to help. A big thanks to the Moya Library/Ross Historical Society, Ross Property Owners Association, and the Ross PTA for sponsoring this event!



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on the Council and to the Ross community. Rupert always supported consistency in the Council's application of the Town's ordinances and transparency in our actions. He will be missed and we wish him and his family well in the future.



Kudos to the Ross Police Officers Association for placing a commemorative bench on the Ross Common in remembrance of former School Resource Officer Bob Besgrove. The handsome teak bench and plaque will serve as a remembrance of Officer Bob's important role in establishing a bond between the community and its law enforcement personnel.

Finally, some progress on the Ross Valley Flood Protection Program will be visible in our town. Around August geotechnical studies preparatory to the Phoenix Lake retrofit project will be started, so some drill rigs will be in the Phoenix Lake area taking core samples. Eventually this project will prepare Phoenix Lake to serve as a detention basin in times of flood and will also improve the area environmentally and for recreation use.

Meanwhile let's all enjoy our summery weather and look forward to seeing all at the July 4th celebration. ■

November Election for Ross Valley Paramedic Authority Parcel Tax



The Council adopted a Resolution calling for an election on November 4, 2014 to place a measure on the ballot for the renewal of the Ross

Valley Paramedic Authority (RVPA) Special Tax for Paramedic Services. The RVPA is an 8-member joint powers authority (JPA) established in 1982 for the purpose of delivering Fire Department paramedic services in the Ross Valley region. It is one of the oldest and most successful regional partnerships in Marin County. The primary funding mechanism for the RVPA is property tax. Each taxable residential unit is taxed along with every 1,500 square feet of non-residential structure. This taxation funding source has been in place since the inception of the RVPA. It financially supports a significant portion of the approximately \$2.3 million annual budget.

Every four years, the citizens who reside within the member communities of the RVPA service area vote to fund the tax for a four-year period. The current tax expires June 30, 2015. In order to maintain this revenue stream, each JPA member agency must place the matter on the November 2014 ballot. ■

MEMORIAL BENCH IN HONOR OF "OFFICER BOB"



On June 2nd, the Ross community joined the Ross Police Officers Association in dedicating a memorial bench and plaque honoring Community Resource Officer Robert Besgrove ("Officer Bob"). The bench is located on the Ross Common across the street from Eddie's (see photo page 5). Parents, children, teachers, alumni and many others attended to pay tribute to the man with the huge smile and the heart behind it who watched over our children and our community for 18 years, and to celebrate his life and profound contribution to our town. Stories and memories were shared with the Besgrove family, who were also in attendance. The bench was donated by the Ross Police Officers Association. ■

PLANNING



Elise Semonian

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the June 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 July 2014 Council meeting.

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

Address: 32 Fernhill Avenue
Applicant: Mark & Cristy Roskelley
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-1 (Russell recused, Small absent)

Address: 88 Laurel Grove Avenue
Applicant: Courtney & Nicole Haslett
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0 (Small absent)

Address: 38 Fernhill Avenue
Applicant: Cypress Trust
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0 (Small absent)

REMINDER FROM PUBLIC WORKS



Fire season is here and plant vegetation such as hedges and brush that extend into the public right-of-way need to be trimmed back. Please note it is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain the right-of-way in front of their homes to the edge of the roadway. Trees, landscaping and brush should be removed 14 feet above and 4 feet back from the edge of the road.

Thank you for keeping our public pathways clear.



Marin Emergency Radio Authority Requests Parcel Tax Endorsement



The Council discussed the MERA request to put a parcel tax on the ballot. The purpose of the proposed tax would be to fund the next generation of equipment necessary to modernize the current communications system used by public safety and emergency responders in the county.

MERA provides critical public safety communications to 25 member agencies, both day-to-day and during and after a major emergency or natural disaster. In addition to the Marin County agencies there are a number of partner agencies including the California Highway Patrol dispatch, Golden Gate Transit dispatch, U.S. Coast Guard, Petaluma Police dispatch, Sonoma County Sheriff dispatch, State Emergency Management and Mutual Aid and others. MERA radio communications is the backbone of the 911 emergency response systems. The current system is not sustainable:

- ✓ It is already over the design capacity of the system with 2,900 users vs. the 2,500 it was designed for
- ✓ There are coverage issues in Southern and West Marin
- ✓ Reliability issues as system components are no longer being manufactured
- ✓ Technological obsolescence, the current system will be able to meet new Federal Communication Commission (FCC) narrow frequency system requirements and the frequencies that now exist must be returned to the FCC in 2021

New system will offer:

- Compliance with FCC regulations and movement to 700mhz offering better interoperability among Bay Area agencies
- Improved response times through less busy signals during major events
- Reliable coverage with new equipment sites in Southern and West Marin and upgraded radios, dispatch systems

The total cost of the new system is estimated at \$40 million plus \$6.3 million in bond costs. To pay the bond costs a parcel tax is proposed. While the rates vary by property type for single family residential the cost is \$29/parcel. For more info on MERA go to <http://meraonline.org>. ■



SFD/ LAGUNITAS ROAD PROJECT SCHEDULE

First Day of Construction - June 16, 2014

Phase I: Eastside (MAGC side of SFD) June 16-July 18, 2014 (5 weeks)

Phase II: Westside (Town Hall side of SFD) June 30-August 1, 2014 (5 weeks)

Phase III: Final paving - July 28-August 8, 2014 (2 weeks)

Close-out: August 11-August 15, 2014 (1 week)

Last Day of Construction - August 15, 2014*

*date subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances

Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste



If you missed spring cleaning this year - not to worry. Marin residents have a variety of ways to dispose of bulky or hazardous items year round:

- Appliances - Bring your old toaster, iron, hairdryer, vacuum or other small home appliances to a Goodwill near you.
- Cooking Oil - Collect your own cooking oil in a jar or bottle and donate it to the Marin Household Hazardous Waste Facility to create a cleaner -burning biofuel for your community.
- Furniture - If you're redecorating your house this summer, don't forget to arrange for a pick-up or drop-off of your old couch or table.
- Latex Paint - Donate your old and unwanted latex paints to a facility near you. Your old paint could be someone else's new art project or recycled into new paint.
- Pharmaceuticals - If you have old and expired prescription medicine at home, bring them to a collection site. Never flush pills down the drain.
- Sharps - Safely dispose of needles and other sharps at a collection site. Never place loose sharps in the garbage.

In Marin, you can safely recycle anything from aerosol cans to windows. For a full list of recyclable items, go to ZeroWasteMarin.org.

PUBLIC SAFETY



There was a recent suspicious incident that occurred in Kentfield, so the Ross Police Department would like to remind parents of some safety tips.

On 05/14/14 at approximately 1415 hours, a 10-year old girl was walking from her house to a friend's house a few houses down the street on Laurel Grove Ave. in Kentfield. She saw a red vehicle occupied by a male driver and female passenger come to a stop across from her. The male suspect asked her if she wanted a ride, opened the driver's side door, and took a step toward the girl. The girl told the driver "No" and took off running to her friend's house. The suspect had got back in his vehicle and sped past the girl at a fairly high rate of speed down Laurel Grove Ave.

SUSPECT VEHICLE: Described by the girl as a smaller older red unknown make sedan, with oxidized and flaking paint on top. MALE SUSPECT: WMA early 50's, average build, with gray and average length brown hair balding a little on top, possibly wearing light colored pants. No facial hair, no glasses, no accent. The girl could not remember much other detail about the male suspect. FEMALE SUSPECT: WFA early 50's with shoulder length gray and brown hair.

Please contact Deputy Dan Maples, if you have any further suspect information at [\(415\)473-5242](tel:(415)473-5242), or dmaples@marinsheriff.org.

Safety Tips

- Don't talk to strangers
- Don't walk with strangers
- Don't accept gifts from strangers
- Don't talk to strangers when they ask for directions, ask you to pet their puppy or tell you a parent is injured or in an accident
- If ever approached by a stranger, tell a parent or an adult who you trust
- Don't get into a car with strangers
- If you are approached by a stranger, run away toward other people and tell an adult. ■

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 320
Ross, CA 94957

Street Address: 31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd
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

JUNE 2014

Jun 12	6:00 pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Jun 16	-- --	SFD/Lagunitas Road Intersection Project begins
Jun 24	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

JULY 2014

Jul 4	-- --	Town Hall offices closed for Independence Day
Jul 4	11:00 am	Ross 4th of July Celebration, Ross Common
Jul 10	6:00 pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
TBD	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

AUGUST 2014

Note: No Council Meeting and "The Morning After" newsletter scheduled in August.

Aug 15	-- --	SFD/Lagunitas Road Project estimated construction completion
Aug 26	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

RECURRING EVENTS

Tuesdays thru September	Marin Community Farm Stand, 12:00-8:00 pm, MAGC
Thursdays thru September	Ross Valley Farmers Market, 3:00-7:00 pm, Downtown Ross
Thursdays thru Aug 14	Summer Concert Series, 5:00-7:00 pm, Marin Art & Garden Center

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