

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 | Issue 9 | October 2014

Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Brekhus

The 2014 Ross Town Dinner at the Marin Art & Garden Center (MAGC) was an outstanding success, thanks to the efforts of Janey Kuhl and Betty Zampa. The weather cooperated, the band played, many residents attended and the children behaved. Sunflowers donated by Molly Gamble colored the tables and lights twinkled overhead as the community gathered to eat, drink and visit. Thank you Janey and Betty for carrying on this awesome tradition. MAGC again volunteered space for the event, and what a magical setting it was. Thank you Diane Doodha and the MAGC Board for lending the space and being such a good neighbor. See story on this page for others who volunteered and played a key role in the

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Town Dinner - A Night to Remember



worked seamlessly for this event - we greatly appreciate the use of the space! This event would not be possible without the many volunteers and generous donors that helped make it happen. Many thanks to the following: Co-

The 9th annual Town Dinner drew 500+ Ross community members to dine outside (potluck style) with their neighbors. The event was held for the second year at the Marin Art & Garden Center who generously donated their venue for this annual Town tradition. A big thank you to MAGC, whose venue



Chairs Janey Kuhl and Betty Zampa for overseeing and coordinating the event, Frank Burkhart, Tallie Fishburne, Molly Gamble, Nicole Haslett, Sandrick Jackson, Marianne Jacobson, Stacey Kamp, Lynn Langford, Kathy Logan, Lucky Drive Band,

Betsy McDermott, Jessica Meyer, Amanda Mortimer, Kirsten Polsky, Stephanie Roeder, Ross Café, Paris Royo, Seawood Photo, Singer Family, Alexandra Treene, Woodlands Market, Lisa Zampa, and the Ross Police Department. *(More photos on page 3)*



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Mayor's Corner - continued from page 1

success of the Town dinner. Thank you all for volunteering your time.

This year, the Octagon House was open to residents during the dinner, in celebration of its 150th year anniversary. Many of the residents who toured the building for the first time expressed admiration. We are fortunate to have the efforts of the Ross Historical Society, who serve as conscientious stewards of this local, historical site.



The Town Council will hold a workshop, as we do every year, on October 30th at the Branson School from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. While the agenda is still being finalized, items planned to be discussed include: long term planning, capital facility repairs and upgrades, and other issues that take more time than we can devote at the regular Council meetings. This year we will consider the civic center facilities and seismic safety, the condition of the 3 Bear Hut at Phoenix Lake, fire department landscape plan requirements, rules and regulations impacting remodels, replacement or repair of the Ross Common turf and related Common areas (i.e., arbor replacement and ivy fence), and future recreation preschool facilities, among other items. Residents are invited and welcome to attend. ■

Housing Element Update

Under State law, local governments are required to adopt a Housing Element as part of its General Plan that shows how the community plans to meet the projected housing needs. As part of this process, the State identifies the total housing need for the San Francisco Bay Area for an eight-year period. The State has determined that the Bay Area must plan for 187,990 new housing units for this cycle, from 2014 to 2022.

The Town has been assigned a share of the Bay Area's regional housing need. At a minimum, the Town must provide adequate sites to develop 18 units for various income levels: 6 very low, 4 low, 4 moderate and 4 above moderate.

2014 Income Limits	Household Size	
	1 Person	4 Person
Very Low Income	\$39,600	\$56,550
Low Income	\$63,350	\$90,500
Moderate Income	\$86,500	\$123,600

The Town's current plan provides adequate sites to develop these units and staff proposed maintaining the current policies, which include development of vacant lots, housing mixed with commercial uses in the downtown area, and second units.

The Town Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the draft housing element in December. ■

Measure E: Ross School Parcel Tax Renewal



Voters living in the Ross School District will see Measure E on their November ballots. Measure E is a *renewal* of the Ross School District parcel tax, because the

existing parcel tax is due to expire in June 2015. Since 1989, Ross School has received funding from a parcel tax and Ross voters have renewed it every time it has been on the ballot.

This particular tax calls for a one time increase of \$184.00 per parcel to partially offset a 40% decrease in revenue from the state since the last parcel tax was passed 8 years ago. The current parcel tax rate for 2014-15 is \$771.00. The renewed parcel tax rate would be \$955.00 for 2015-16. The parcel tax results in no change in senior exemption (and existing senior exemptions would continue), no change in the 8 year term, and no change in the 3% escalator.

Parcel tax revenue provides critical funding for maintaining excellence at Ross School. 100% of the revenues go to Ross School, stay under local control and cannot be taken by the state or diverted to other school districts.

For further information email rossbearsrenew@gmail.com.

PLANNING RESULTS



Elise Semonian

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the October 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 November 2014 Council meeting. An audio file of this meeting will be posted on the [website](#) the day after the meeting.

Address: SFD/Lagunitas Bus Stop Shelters
Applicant: Town of Ross & MAGC
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0

Address: 26 Ross Common
Applicant: Theresa Ryan
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0

Address: 14 Upper Ames Avenue
Applicant: Ariel & Rebecca Nessel
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0

Address: 179 Lagunitas
Applicant: Gardenia L.P.
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0 (Hoertkorn recused)



Recreation News

The Ross Recreation Department's youth soccer league program has over 325 young players in grades K through 3 participating in classes and on teams. Games began Sept. 27th and will continue through Nov. 15th. Games are on Ross Commons on Saturdays. Thanks to all the parent coaches for volunteering!



Fall programs are underway at Ross and Bacich and many are full. Our youth carpentry classes at both sites are a big success! A popular new class at Ross is Expressive Arts, which helps 4-5th grade girls develop leadership and communication skills. Ballroom Dance will be offered in November at MAGC. Basketball leagues will begin in December for grades 2-4. The Hoops classes introduce 1st graders to the sport. The Garden School and St. John's Preschool welcomed parents to back to school nights and report that the positive energy generated by this year's young participants has the schools off to a great start.

The Summer programs were staffed by many returning leaders and counselors and camp was well attended by both returning and new children from Ross and the surrounding communities. ■

Town Dinner - A Night to Remember - *continued from page 1 (photos courtesy of Linda Lopez & Gary Scales)*





PUBLIC SAFETY

Traffic Safety

It's a new school year and many students are getting to school by bicycles. Ross School has bike or walk to school day on Wednesday's. We have noticed that the sun rising above the trees as the children are coming to school presents some visibility challenges. Drivers, please take this into account as you travel on Lagunitas, Shady Lane and other school routes.

Halloween

The Police Department will be out on Halloween as usual this year. We will be handing out glow sticks for our Trick-or-Treaters (until our supply runs out). Please be safe, wear visible reflective materials, have flashlights, or Glow Sticks. Please use care when crossing the street, and watch for cars. Have a safe Halloween. ■

Halloween Festivities



October 29, 2:00-5:00 pm

Window Painting

Downtown Ross

**Contact Bonnie Bibas for info at
239-287-1414**

October 31 - Halloween Night

Shady Lane closure

5:00-9:00 pm

Trick or treat!

New Signs for Police/Fire & Town Hall



GOT TIPS FOR SAVING WATER?

Our water-saving tip this month comes from a Ross resident who suggests putting a large Tupperware-type container in the kitchen sink to catch the water from rinsing vegetables, washing hands, etc. The excess water goes into the container instead of down the drain. When the container is full, the water is transferred to watering cans for watering their potted plants. As long as the excess water does not have a lot of soap in it, the plants love it. They do this about three times a day which adds up to about 50 gallons of water a month. This added to other measures they have taken has reduced their water consumption over 50% in the last 6 months! Readers: Do you have any tips for saving water you'd like to share? Send your tips to llopez@townofross.org.



Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) suggests the following tips for saving water outdoors:

- **Don't overwater.** Overwatering is the #1 cause of plant problems and wastes water. Symptoms of overwatering include algae, moss, and mushroom growth; yellow lower leaves that fall off; and wilted young shoots. Try cutting back your watering times 2 minutes for every 10 you normally water.
- **Water while you sleep.** Water in the early morning or at night when less is lost to evaporation.
- **Mulch.** A 3-inch layer of mulch throughout planting beds reduces water loss from evaporation and helps keep down weeds.
- **Get smart.** Replace your standard irrigation controller with a smart one and get a **rebate** from MMWD.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2014

Oct 8	9:00	am	Public Works Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 9	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 10-12	6:00	pm	Ross Annual Rummage Sale, Ross School Gym
Oct 14	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 28	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 29	2-5:00	pm	Halloween Window Painting, Downtown Ross (see page 4)
Oct 30	9:3:00	pm	Special Council Meeting Annual Workshop, Branson School
Oct 31	5-9:00	pm	Halloween - Shady Lane Road Closure

NOVEMBER 2014

Nov 11	--	--	Town Hall offices closed Veterans Day
Nov 13	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 18	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 27-28	--	--	Town Hall offices Thanksgiving closure

DECEMBER 2014

Dec 11	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 16	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 22-Dec 30	--	--	Town Hall offices holiday closure (Admin, Building, Public Works, Planning)

JANUARY 2015

Jan 1-2	--	--	Town Hall offices holiday closure
Jan 13*	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall (*note date change)
Jan 19	--	--	Town Hall offices closed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 27	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall



C O N T A C T U S

Mailing Address:	Street Address:
P.O. Box 320	31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd
Ross, CA 94957	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
Recreation	415.453.6020
Ross Valley Fire	415.258.4686
Town Manager	415.453.1453 x107

www.townofross.org

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