

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 | Issue 8 | September 2013

Mayor's Corner



Beach Kuhl

After a month's hiatus, we resumed Town Council activity with both a special meeting this past Tuesday to review the administration of the Town's recreation activities and a regular meeting last night. In addition to our regular October meeting, the Town Council will hold a planning workshop on October 22nd starting at 8:30 a.m. in the Multipurpose room of the Marin Art and Garden Center to discuss long range plans for the Town. Please feel free to suggest topics for consideration and plan to attend to participate in the discussions.

The Council's committee structure and assignments of members to represent the Town at other organizations remains essentially the same as last year except for

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HIGHLIGHTS

3. Planning
3. Post Office Improvements
3. Bolinas Avenue Project Update
4. Emergency Preparedness
4. Public Safety
4. Ross Rummage Sale
5. Sheetpile Bank Project Award
6. Calendar

Council Discusses Recreation Services



The Town Council discussed recreation services as currently provided by the Ross Parks and Recreation Committee (RPRC) at a special meeting held Tuesday, September 10th. The Council as part of this review considered research on how these services are normally provided

by public agencies, and considered the legal opinion of the Town Attorney (TA) who has opined what RPRC is and its legal relationship to the Town.

Background and discussion

Over the past year, the Town has engaged the TA to review the legal relationship between the Town and the RPRC. The Council appointed Councilmembers Brekhus and Hoertkorn to serve as an Ad Hoc Council Committee to coordinate discussions with the RPRC. Since the fall of 2012, these two committees have met on a periodic basis to discuss the legal relationship of the two organizations, applicable governance resolutions, other documents governing what reports must be made by RPRC to the Town, and how RPRC must operate in compliance with certain state requirements (e.g., the Brown Act).

Recently, the TA concluded the legal review of RPRC and its relationship to the Town. The Council after considering these legal policy matters asked the Town Manager to conduct a review of how agencies, particularly public agencies typically provide parks and recreation services (e.g., structure and operations) and give the Council a staff report at the September Council meeting. The report presented data that showed parks and recreation services are provided by government agencies. This is also the case in Marin where all the cities and towns provide parks and recreation services. Belvedere and Tiburon do so through a Joint Powers Agency (JPA).

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Councilmember Rupert Russell assuming the chairmanship of the general government committee and taking my place on the public works committee. All of the assignments can be reviewed on the Town's website on the [Council Committees page](#).



I am pleased to report one of our community's traditional events, the Town Dinner, whose occurrence this year was in doubt because of problems with the event last year, has been rescued at the last minute thru efforts of a number of our citizens, including Elizabeth Brekhus, our Mayor Pro Tem, and Liz Welsh, our Chief of Protocol and others who did not want to see it die. Our thanks and appreciation to the Marin Art and Garden Center which has stepped forward to host the event, which will occur on Friday October 4th. Details will follow soon, and we can look forward again to an opportunity for our families to socialize with our neighbors and friends that evening.

Funded in major part by a generous donation from the Ross Property Owners Association, we will soon have an audio system in our Council chambers to make it easier for all to follow the proceedings. Installation is expected to be done in time for the October Council meeting.

We continue to encourage members of the community to feel free to communicate with the members of the Council as well as the Town staff with questions, suggestions or observations. It is the interest and participation of the public which makes our Town government best serve our community. ■

Council Discusses Recreation Services

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Also, the report included this information from the TA:

1. RPRC is part of the Town government as a Town Committee and therefore is subject to all the legal and regulatory requirements of the State of California that apply to general law cities;
2. As a Town committee; all funds are funds of the Town and the Town Council has legal control over the use of funds currently held by RPRC;
3. The Town must spend the funds for activities connected to providing recreation services, and these funds cannot be comingled with Town General funds;
4. The funds must adhere to the financial controls put in place for spending of Town funds.



After considerable discussion and review and community input, the Council asked the Town Manager to come back with an organizational assessment workplan that would identify in more detail the costs and associated operational details associated with possibly making parks and recreation services a town department or another organizational alternative. ■

PLANNING



Elise Semonian

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the September Council meeting. For more information on each planning application, click [here](#). The minutes of this meeting will be available on the website at www.townofross.org after approval at the October 2013 Council meeting.

Address: 170 Laurel Grove
Applicant: Peter Levinson & Teresa Federer
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5/0/0

Address: 84 Glenwood Avenue
Applicant: George Sandison
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5/0/0

Address: 9 Skyland Way
Applicant: Chris & Gina Fasano
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5/0/0

Address: 2 Garden Road
Applicant: Kent & Jeanne Harvey
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5/0/0

Address: 58 Shady Lane
Applicant: John Coan
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5/0/0

Address: 128 Winding Way
Applicant: Norman & Mette Hardie
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5/0/0

Address: 1 Berry Lane
Applicant: Bill Conrow
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5/0/0

Address: 53 Poplar Avenue
Applicant: Pete & Molly Woodring
Council Action: Landscape condition amended
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5/0/0

Address: 179 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: Gardenia L.P.
Council Action: Continued to October
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4/0/1 (Hoertkorn recused)

Address: 20 Olive Avenue
Applicant: Ezra & Kate Ripple
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4/0/1 (Kuhl recused)

Post Office Improvements



As part of the Town's capital improvement projects, the Post Office parking lots were recently upgraded. The work included replacing sidewalk trip hazards, re-paving both of the parking lots, new striping, curb stops, ADA improvements, and the installation of planters for the planting of new trees in the future.

Bolinas Avenue Safe Pathways Project Update



The Ross Town Council revisited the installation of raised medians for vehicle speed reduction and pedestrian safety on Bolinas Avenue. The Council approved installation of these traffic calming devices to slow traffic down on Bolinas Avenue. Medians will be installed at Shady Lane and Bolinas Avenue, and Richmond Avenue and Bolinas Avenue. Also for information, the Town of San Anselmo approved installation of these medians at their Council meeting held on Tuesday, September 10th. ■



NEW EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE FOR RESIDENTS

September is National Emergency Preparedness month and a good reminder to check your supplies and plans. Are you prepared for an emergency? The Town has created an Emergency Preparedness Guide which offers useful checklists, information on what to do in an emergency and resources to guide you through it. It is available on the Town website on the Community Preparedness and Flood Information pages or you can download a copy [here](#).

Emergency Preparedness

TOWN OF ROSS

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

The Town of Ross is committed to keeping our community safe, especially during an emergency. In addition to our police, Ross Valley Fire Department and other first responders, we have trained town staff as disaster service workers. We regularly coordinate with our emergency responders to ensure we are ready.

For our community to be fully prepared, we need residents and business owners to support our efforts by being ready, too. It's easy if you follow these steps:

- 1 Make a plan
- 2 Prepare an emergency kit
- 3 Know what to do and where to go
- 4 Know where to get more information

What's Inside

To get started, please review this basic emergency preparedness information:

- Make an emergency plan
- Prepare an emergency kit
- Stay or go! Evacuation tips
- Natural gas and power line safety
- Staying informed and important phone numbers
- Emergency preparedness resources

www.townofross.org



REMINDER FROM PUBLIC WORKS....

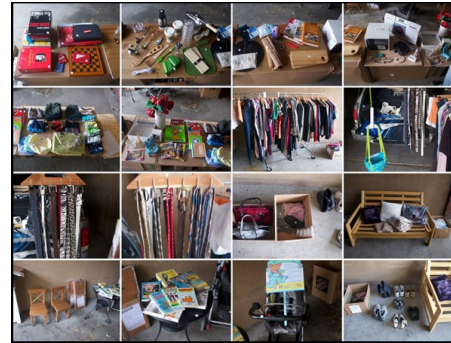
As the fire season progresses, plant vegetation such as hedges and brush that extend into the public right-of-way need to be trimmed back. Please note it is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain the right-of-way in front of their homes to the edge of the roadway. Trees, landscaping and brush should be removed 14 feet above and 4 feet back from the edge of the road. Thank you for keeping our public pathways clear.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Ross Police Department hired John Adams as a new Reserve Police Officer to assist with current temporary staffing shortages. Officer Adams began as a police officer in 2004 and has worked for several California agencies. He currently works for the College of Marin as a patrol officer. Officer Adams is honored to serve the Town and its residents.



ROSS RUMMAGE SALE SAVE THE DATE!



**Friday, October 18th, Preview Party
6:00-8:00 p.m. (\$15)**

Saturday, October 19th 9:00-4:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 20th, 9:00-1:00 p.m.

Held at Ross School Multi-Purpose Room

Twenty-two Ross Middle School students will spearhead this new Town event working with adults from St. John's and the Ross community. 100% of net proceeds will be donated to local charities. Please set aside your neglected treasures! Donation drop off begins September 23rd, 8:00-9:00 a.m. and 2:00-4:00 p.m. (Mon, Wed, Fri) and Sunday 10:00-1:00 p.m., at Marin Art & Garden Center parking lot.

For more information or to volunteer to help, contact Liz Welsh at ross.events@gmail.com.

SHEETPILE BANK STABILIZATION CONTRACT AWARDED



The Council awarded the construction contract for the Sheetpile Bank Stabilization Project located at the Town Hall parking lot to R.E. Staiter Engineering, Inc., the lowest responsive bidder at \$156,915. The project was put out to bid on August 5th and six bids were received and opened on August 29th. Bid amounts ranged from \$156,915 to \$224,910.

Erosion of the bank along Corte Madera Creek has become a concern, potentially affecting the stability of the Town Hall parking lot. Miller Pacific Engineering Group (MPEG) was contracted to provide recommendations, plans and specifications for repairs to counter the erosion. It was determined that the embedment of steel sheetpiles at the edge of the lot would provide the necessary protection. The work is scheduled to begin shortly and is expected to be done by October 15th. ■



MMWD LAUNCHES NEW REBATE PROGRAM

The Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) has launched a new rebate program that began September 1st. The rebates include:

- Up to \$100 for the purchase of a high-efficiency toilet (1.28 gallons per flush)
- Up to \$50 for the purchase of a high-efficiency clothes washer
- Up to \$20 per active residential valve station for the purchase of a smart irrigation controller and up to \$30 per active commercial valve station.

Find out more information at [MMWD](http://www.mmwd.org).



UPCOMING CERT CLASSES

CERT training helps everyone be better prepared to respond to and cope with disasters and emergencies at home, in your neighborhood, at work and throughout your community. The next two classes are:

- October 10th, Mill Valley
- November 7th, College of Marin, Kentfield (sign up early - this class often fills up)

Register at <http://www.marincountycert.org/cert-training-schedule>.

CATCH THE WAVE - FREE FERRY SHUTTLE



Ross Valley commuters who take the ferry to San Francisco will have a free way to get to the terminal. A Larkspur ferry shuttle, running from Fairfax along Sir Francis Drake Blvd. to the Larkspur Ferry Terminal began on Tuesday, September 3rd. The shuttle, called "The Wave", will have a nine-month trial period through June 2014. It will be free for ferry customers. Each weekday, The Wave serves all Larkspur Ferry morning departures between 6:35 a.m. and 8:20 a.m. and afternoon commute arrivals between 4:05 p.m. to 6:55 p.m. The shuttle is designated as Route 25 in the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation's Transit Guide and will make regular Golden Gate Transit stops between Fairfax and the Larkspur Ferry Terminal. Further information can be found at goldengate.org.



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

SEPTEMBER

Sept 2	—	—	Town Hall offices closed for Labor Day
Sept 10	6:00	pm	Special Council Meeting, Town Hall
Sept 12	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Sept 20	11:00	am	Moya/Ross Historical Society Annual Meeting, MAGC
Sept 24	7:30	am	General Government Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Sept 24	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

OCTOBER

Oct 4	6:00	pm	Ross Town Dinner, Marin Art & Garden Center
Oct 10	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 18, 19, 20			Ross Rummage Sale, Ross School (see page 4 for details)
Oct 22	8:30	am	Special Council Meeting - Annual Strategy Workshop Marin Art & Garden Center (MAGC), Multipurpose Room
Oct 22	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

NOVEMBER

Nov 11	—	—	Town Hall offices closed for Veterans Day
Nov 14	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Nov	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting
Nov 28-29	—	—	Town Hall offices closed for Thanksgiving

RECURRING EVENTS

Tuesdays thru October	Marin Community Farm Stand, 11:00-7:00 pm, MAGC
Thursdays thru September	Ross Valley Farmers Market, 3:00-7:00 pm, Downtown Ross

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