

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 | Issue 8 | September 2014

Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Brekhus

I am both honored and privileged to serve as the Mayor of the Town of Ross. I am proud of our community and our Town, and am sentimental about its traditions and its beauty.

One of our favorite traditions is the charming Ross Town Dinner. This is a community event open to all Ross residents, and set for 5:00 pm on Friday, September 26, 2014. We are so fortunate that the Marin Art & Garden Center agreed to host the dinner, and donate the cost of renting the site, and that Ross residents, Janey Kuhl and Betty Zampa, volunteered to organize the celebration! Please RSVP, purchase tickets in advance, and join your neighbors!

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

2. Message from Ross Valley Fire
2. P.O. Adds Street Addresses
3. Planning
3. Construction Contracts Awarded
3. Recreation
4. Ross Rummage Sale
4. Earthquake Preparation
5. Calendar

Octagon House Celebrates 150 Years

By Gary Scales

The Octagon House, iconic home of the Moya Library-Ross Historical Society, celebrates its Sesquicentennial anniversary September 19, 2014. Located in the Marin Art & Garden Center, the eight-sided historic structure was built 150 years ago by the daughter of James Ross and her husband, George Worn, to serve as a temporary home while construction on their 21 acre Sunnyside estate was completed.



In 1882, Jonathan and Harriet DeWitt Kittle acquired Sunnyside. The main house was substantially expanded and the Octagon House converted into an elegant billiard room for Mr. Kittle. In 1931, a fire severely damaged the family residence and the heirs demolished the improvements, however the Octagon House and the livery stable, today home to the Ross Valley Players, were left standing.

Continued on page 4

SFD/Lagunitas Road Project Update



The Sir Francis Drake Boulevard (SFD)/Lagunitas intersection improvement project is nearly completed with a few outstanding items still to go. The Council approved amending the project to install an additional concrete sidewalk from the bus stop location (in front of MAGC) to Laurel Grove Avenue. We

thank everyone for their patience during this construction project!



Mayor's Corner - continued from page 1

The Town of Ross is blessed with an abundance of trees, a lush, organic landscape, and vistas of the surrounding hills and Mt. Tam. When the Town Council considers residential development or approves public works projects, we do so with the goal of enhancing, or, not detracting from, the beauty of the Town.

At this month's Council meeting the Council reviewed a design plan to landscape the median area located on Sir Francis Drake, just before Bolinas Avenue. The proposal is to landscape the median with native plants consistent with those you see in the median in Kentfield and Greenbrae. The SFD/Lagunitas pedestrian safety improvement project was undertaken during the summer months, when many residents were away. The work enhanced pedestrian and ADA access around the the SFD/Lagunitas intersection, and included repaving SFD, replacing the traffic signals, and improving the flow of traffic in front of Town Hall. New lighting and a new landscaping area was also added in front of Town Hall, and soon, new wood signs will be installed to replace the existing Fire and Police sign and to identify Town Hall. This work continues the Town's commitment to residents to provide safe pedestrian and traffic access and quality roads.

In October, the Council will review seismic studies of Town owned buildings in the aftermath of the Napa earthquake. We encourage all residents to review their family disaster plan and to consider volunteering as a Block Captain for the Town DISCO (disaster preparedness) program. Please contact Ross resident (and unsung hero) Patti Shimek to volunteer at p_shimek@hotmail.com. ■

A Message from the Ross Valley Fire Department



Wildfire season has officially arrived in Northern California as evidenced by the recent fires in Napa and Solano Counties. High temperatures, low humidity, winds, and low

fuel moistures lead to exponential fire growth which quickly over-run local resource capabilities. The Ross Valley Fire Department is a signatory of the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement and participates in the Office of Emergency Services (OES) engine program. As such, the Department is responsible for responding to mutual aid requests with the OES fire engine and personnel. The department has responded to two incidents this fire season already.

Please visit www.rossvalleyfire.org to find information on how you can prepare your home for any type of disaster, whether it is a fire, flood, or earthquake. Further information on wildfire safety is available at www.firesafemarin.org, and http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/focus/apr_2014_wildfire.pdf.

Ross Street Addresses Added to Post Office Database

We are happy to report the U.S. Post Office (USPS) has added the physical street addresses of 645 addresses in Ross to their database. Ross does not have mail delivery, and as a result, Ross street addresses have not been recognized in the USPS database (in the past), making it challenging for residents to receive packages from carriers such as FedEx or UPS, and challenging for mapping a street location in Ross.

The Ross Property Owners Association had requested the Town look into this matter. Congressman Jared Huffman's office was contacted and assisted in getting the USPS to agree with the Town's request. As a result, the USPS has revised the information in their mail database. The database now includes both the PO Box and physical address for 645 addresses in Ross. The USPS reminds residents that with this change, mail is still only delivered to the PO Box (not the physical address). For vendors who require a physical address such as FedEx, residents should use the following four-line format:

- Name
- Street Address
- P.O. Box Number
- City, State Zip Code ■



PLANNING RESULTS



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 for this meeting will be available at www.townofross.org after adoption at the October 2014 Council meeting. An audio file of this meeting will be posted on the [website](#) the day after the meeting.

Address: 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd
Applicant: Marin Art & Garden Center
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0

Address: 66 Bridge Road
Applicant: Stanley & Karen Stern
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0 (Kuhl recused)

Address: 33 Wellington Avenue
Applicant: Ken & Alison Pickart
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0

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

Two Construction Contracts Awarded

The Council awarded construction contracts for the following two upcoming capital projects:

1) Sir Francis Drake at Bolinas Avenue Median Landscaping Project was awarded to Gardeners' Guild, the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$50,907.08.

The median island just south of Bolinas Avenue will receive new landscaping and existing water service and electrical connections will be re-established. The project is expected to



commence in early October, pending Marin Municipal Water District approval.

2) 2014 Roadway Improvements Project was awarded to Maggiora & Ghilotti, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$129,129. The streets scheduled for repaving are Ames Avenue (from Shady Lane to the cul-de-sac), Canyon Road (from Winding to approx. 200' from Laurel Grove), and portions of Upper Road (between Glenwood and Woodhaven). The project will be completed before the end of October 2014. ■

Recreation News

The Ross Recreation Department is a new department of the Town of Ross, which has incorporated the programs and staff of the former Ross Recreation. Our mission is to provide quality recreational activities for the residents of Ross and their neighbors. The department offers programs in arts, youth and adult sports, summer camps, instructional classes and pre-schools. Fall registration is underway and we hope you find an activity that enhances your quality of life through one of our many programs.



The summer program had a variety of activities with over 1,250 participants! Many hours of smiles, laughs, trips, sports, arts and more were enjoyed by all. To see photos of some of the activities, please scroll down on our Facebook page. While you are there, please LIKE us, and you will get updates (www.facebook.com/rossrec). The Department has created a new website interface that is easily accessed from your smartphone, tablet or computer. Check it out at www.rossrecreation.org. It's time to register for our Fall programs!



Ross Rummage Sale is Back!



Preview Party - Friday, October 10th, 6:00-8:00 p.m. \$20 adults, \$5 age 17 and under
Saturday, October 11th 9:00-4:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 12th 10:00-12 Noon

at the Ross School Gym

The second annual Ross Rummage Sale is coming. Donate your gently used items (clothes, furniture, housewares, sports equipment, toys). 100% of net proceeds will benefit three Marin charities. Donation drop off begins September 17th thru October 3rd, Mon, Wed, Fri from 9:00-10:00 am and 3:30-4:30 pm, and Sunday, September 28th 11:00-2:00 pm, in front of the Ross School. For more info contact rossrummage@gmail.com.

ROSS - ARE YOU PREPARED FOR AN EARTHQUAKE?

Last month, moments after our region was struck by a 6.0 magnitude earthquake near Napa, most of us were fortunate not to have experienced any damage or injury. But in Napa and Vallejo, the damage was severe - with estimates already reaching \$1 billion and approximately 200 people injured.

If this earthquake affected Ross, would you:

- Have an evacuation plan and know what to do, once you were required to evacuate?
- Know how to contact your family and friends?
- Have food, water, medicine and other supplies for at least 72 hours for you, your family and pets?

What can you do to prepare?

- Take a Get Ready Class – Ross Valley Fire Department will be re-launching an improved Get Ready program next month during October Fire Safety month. Classes will be announced on their website in October at www.rossvalleyfire.org.
- Take a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course - this 16-hour course provides training to the community to assist immediately after a disaster occurs until the arrival of professional rescuers. Go to www.readymarin.org to register.

Octagon House Celebrates 150 Years - *continued from page 1*

When the Kittle heirs sold the property to the Marin Art & Garden Center in 1945, the Octagon House was in a poor state of repair. For the next several decades it was used for storage, although in the mid-1960s, the Pathfinders' Guild served soups and salads in it to raise funds in support of the Center.

In 1968, the Marin Art & Garden Center wanted to honor Ross resident and acclaimed artist, Jose Moya del Pino, for his contributions as one of the driving forces that founded the Center and for serving as an original Trustee. Funded with a substantial donation from Moya's wife, Helen, the Octagon House was moved to its present location and placed on a new foundation. The original tongue and groove walls were restored and a handsome balcony and spiral staircase were added. Upon completion of the restoration, the Octagon House became the Moya Library and a supporting guild was formed. The library collection is limited to works relating to art, gardening and local history, with many of the original volumes from the personal collection of the Moya del Pino family. The Ross Historical Society was established in 1982 and originally had its offices at the Town Hall. The two organizations consolidated in 1994. Today the Octagon House serves the community as the Moya Library-Ross Historical Society. ■



ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sep 1	--	--	Town Hall offices closed Labor Day
Sep 11	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Sep 22	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Sep 26	5:00	pm	Annual Town Dinner, Marin Art & Garden Center

OCTOBER 2014

Oct 9	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 10-12			Ross Annual Rummage Sale (see page 4 for details)
Oct 28	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

NOVEMBER 2014

Nov 11	--	--	Town Hall offices closed Veterans Day
Nov 13	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
TBD	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
TBD	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 22-Jan 2	--	--	Town Hall offices holiday closure

RECURRING EVENTS

Thursdays thru September Ross Valley Farmers Market, 3:00-7:00 pm, Downtown Ross



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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