

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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### Mayor's Corner



Katie Hoertkorn

Winter Dinner, one of the Town's unique and longstanding traditions hosted by the Ross Auxiliary, took place last Saturday, March 5th. On behalf of all the residents and the families that will benefit from your hard work, thank you and congratulations for a fun evening and raising \$16,500 to support Pixie Park! Thank you also to all those who opened their homes and to those whom purchased tickets to support the Auxiliary's worthwhile efforts. Rich and I had a great time hosting, and look forward to the next Winter Dinner in 2018.

Over the past few months, I have received numerous comments and concerns about the post office regarding lost mail, lack of pick up slips, and more. I

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### MMWD Pipeline Replacement in Ross

The Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) has begun two separate water line projects in Ross to replace worn and dated pipeline that supplies water to the Town of Ross. The first project currently underway includes the following streets of Bridge Road, Brookwood Lane, Norwood Avenue, and Redwood Drive. Construction has begun at Brookwood Lane, which will be followed by Bridge Road. This project will replace a 110-year old galvanized pipe with new welded steel and PVC pipeline in order to increase fire flow and seismic reliability. The project is being coordinated with the Town to be completed prior to an upcoming overlay project on Redwood Drive and Brookwood Lane.



The second water line project is replacing nearly a mile of dated, leak-prone cast iron pipelines on Lagunitas Road (from Glenwood Avenue to Sylvan Lane, with piping connections to side streets intersecting Lagunitas Road in this stretch). Construction is scheduled to begin the week of March 14th near the Glenwood Avenue intersection. The original pipelines were installed in 1908, 1920, and 1947. Due to their age, the pipes have reached the end of their usefulness and are due for replacement. This project will replace the three existing pipelines with one 12-inch welded steel pipe, which offers improved reliability in the event of an earthquake. Town staff have coordinated this project with the Ross School, and work next to the School has been scheduled to be done during spring break to minimize disruption.

The projects are scheduled to be completed in June. Both the contractors and MMWD will make every effort to minimize traffic disruptions during construction. Residents with any questions regarding either of these projects, should contact Jeff Ohmart, MMWD's Engineering Division, at (415) 945-1574.

You can read the full text of the press releases at [marinwater.org](http://marinwater.org). ■



have been working with the post office since last August for solutions to these issues. This week the Postmaster, Roosevelt Sargent, sent an email to the community – a shortened version is included on page 2 below. He is very committed to providing top quality service to the community, and is taking steps to improve services. On any given day 300+ boxes have mail that does not fit in its box. In addition approximately 5% of the mail and up to 40% of packages do not have the Post Office Box number; therefore, the address must be manually cross referenced to the Post Office Box number, which is a very time consuming, manual process. We can help improve postal services by: 1) picking up your mail on a frequent basis; 2) notifying the Post Office when you will be out of town; and 3) putting your Post Office Box number on all mail and packages.



Those few steps can help free up personnel to ensure getting all our mail and yellow slips to our boxes. There is another issue, and that is shipments from Amazon currently are received first in either the San Anselmo Post Office or the San Rafael Post Office, which results in at least a 24-72 hours delivery delay. This has created confusion as Amazon shows shipments as delivered, yet they are not at the Ross Post Office for pick up. The Ross Post Office has requested that the trucks now come directly to Ross, but it will take a few more weeks to sort this issue out.

The report on the proposed fees for building, planning, and other services will be presented to Council at the April or May meeting. I will be in front of the Ross Post Office, April 13th from 1:15-2:15 p.m., just before next month's Council meeting. I look forward to hearing any of your concerns or questions, or simply having the opportunity to meet you. ■

### A Letter from Roosevelt Sargent III, Ross Postmaster

(The following is excerpted from the Postmaster's letter to Ross PO box holders.)

Dear Ross Post Office Box Holders,

*I am writing this letter to you all in an effort to provide clarity on some of Mail delivery issues at the Ross Post Office, and some ways to help us improve your mail service.*

#### **What is needed to improve the mail service at the Ross Post Office?**

**1) Using your PO Box number on your mail 100 percent of the time.** Every day at the Ross Post Office we process over 5000 letters and flats, in addition to a couple of hundred packages. When the mail arrives here at the Post Office it arrives in numerical order by PO Box number. This allows the Post Office to get the mail to you as soon as possible. When mail arrives missing the box number, with a street address, or a combination of street address and PO box number, it causes the mail to arrive in a mixed container that now has to be sorted manually.

**2) Mail should be picked up at least every other day.** The longer the mail is left in the box, the higher the risk of the mail being mixed up with another box or in some cases returned to sender. If you are going on vacation we ask that you place a hold on your mail by doing one of the following: Fill out a vacation hold card here in the office; or Submit a vacation hold request at [USPS.com](https://www.usps.com).

#### **What is needed from the Ross Post Office to improve service to the Town?**

**1) Our number one goal is to provide exceptional service on a daily basis.** This involves us learning who our customers are and their corresponding PO Box numbers.

**2) We are also changing the layout of how we organize our packages to better serve our customers the first time they arrive to pick up their package.**

**3) Another way that the Post Office can help the Residents of Ross is with better communication.** I am teaching my staff to better respond to issues that are presented to them at the counter.

**4) Staffing is another way that we can ensure quality service.** We are in the process of adding another employee or two to our staff. Please be patient while we get the new employees up to speed.

Hopefully I have provided clarity on some of the issues that have been occurring at your Post Office, and some steps we can take together to improve the service provided by the Ross Post Office. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any other questions, comments or concerns. I am always available. Regards, Roosevelt Sargent III, Postmaster



## PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the February Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the [March 10th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be available on this page after adoption by the Council at the April Council meeting.

**Address:** 8 Ames Avenue  
**Applicant:** Ian & Julie McGuire  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 4-0-0 (Robbins recused)

**Address:** 100 Winding Way  
**Applicant:** Nancy & Michael Alvarez  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 3-2-0 (Hoertkorn, Small opposed)

## Good Neighbor Reminder



The Town has very specific regulations regarding the storage and location of trash and recycling receptacles. As a friendly reminder, please remember to bring in your trash and recycling material receptacles **on the same day** that collection service was provided by the Marin Sanitary Service. Additionally, please be sure to store your trash and recyclable materials receptacles on your property and away from public view. For more information on the Town's regulations, please contact Heidi Scoble, Planning Manager, at 415-453-1453 Ext. 121 or via email at [hscoble@townofross.org](mailto:hscoble@townofross.org). You can also access the Town's Municipal Code at [www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org).



## PUBLIC SAFETY



### Ross School Drop-off

**Please help us keep the drop-off area available for dropping off students**

The Police Dept has received some complaints about the Ross School drop-off, especially in the mornings. It appears that some parents are parking their cars on Lagunitas Road and then going into the school. The white zone fronting the school is marked "No Parking" drop-off only.

Please pull forward as far as possible and drop-off your student. Do not use this area to go into the school. The Police officers will be warning drivers not to park in the drop-off area.

Also as a reminder, please do not park in the Post Office Only parking spaces at school pick-up time in the afternoon. These spaces are made available for Post office customers.

Thanks for your help and cooperation.

Ross Police Department

## CERT & CPR Classes Available

Interested in emergency preparedness? It's not too late to sign up for a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class or a CPR Class. The next CERT class is March 19-20th, held at the College of Marin. This 2-day (18 hour) course is \$45, and includes a backpack, helmet, goggles, certification card and training manual. To enroll, go to [readymarin.org](http://readymarin.org) or contact CERT Coordinator Maggie Lang at 415-485-3409.

CPR classes are offered by the Ross Valley Fire Department. Future classes include March 20th, May 15th and July 24th. The class is held in Fairfax and costs \$40. You may sign up in person at the San Anselmo Fire Station, 777 San Anselmo Avenue, up to one week prior to the class. For further info go to [www.rossvalleyfire.org](http://www.rossvalleyfire.org).







## FEMA

### Flood Insurance Rate Map Update

On March 16, 2016, the revised Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for the



Town of Ross will go into effect. FEMA is responsible for the preparation of the FIRMs for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The purpose of the FIRMs is to show the areas of flooding risk for Ross.

Accordingly, those properties designated “Special Flood Hazard Area” (SFHA) or within the “Regulatory Floodway”, as shown on the FIRMs, are required to adhere to development restrictions and regulations pursuant to Chapter 15.36 of the Ross Municipal Code, in addition to complying with the federal law regarding flood insurance. Specifically, if you have a mortgage from a federally regulated or insured lender, and the building (s) on the parcel are within a high-risk area, then by federal law, your lender must require you to carry flood insurance when these flood maps become effective. If you do not have a mortgage, it is still recommended you purchase flood insurance to reduce the financial impact of flooding.

Although the Town of Ross is not involved in the administration of flood insurance, the Town wanted to inform you that if your property is located in an SFHA, you may be eligible for lower insurance rates for property owners that obtained flood insurance policies **prior** to March 16, 2016. For more information on flood insurance you can visit the NFIP website, [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov), or contact your insurance agent to inquire about FEMA’s subsidized or ‘grandfathered’ insurance rates. When speaking with your insurance company, remember to remind them that your property is eligible for up to a 10% discount due to Ross’s participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) program. The CRS is a voluntary incentive program run by the NFIP that recognizes communities for implementing floodplain management practices that exceed the Federal minimum requirements of the NFIP to provide protection from flooding.

Contact Heidi Scoble, Planning Manager, at 415-453-1453 Ext 121 or via email at [hscoble@townofross.org](mailto:hscoble@townofross.org) if you have any questions regarding the FEMA FIRMs, or you can view the FEMA maps at [www.Marinmap.org](http://www.Marinmap.org).

## RECREATION NEWS

Summer program registration is open. Ross Recreation will be offering a number of camps and programs during the summer season. Top Gun, Adventure Camp, Sporty Girls, Camp Safari, Kinder Camp, and Marin Explorers



are some of the popular camps conducted during the summer by Ross Recreation. Register early and don’t miss out on these fun programs.

Get your summer on!

Register at [www.rossrecreation.org](http://www.rossrecreation.org)

### Staff Update

One of our former counselors for the popular Top Gun summer camp, **Patrick Tracy**, is currently a member of the University of Michigan lacrosse team, playing the attack position. Patrick is a Ross native who attended Ross School and played lacrosse for the Ross Valley Grizzlies and Redwood High School.



### Ross Rec Preschool visits Ross School Play

The Ross Recreation Preschool at St. John’s recently visited the Ross School to

watch the Three Piggy Opera. In partnership with Ross School, the preschool staff schedules visits to special events held at the school. This program is designed to give the children a view of student life in order to



prepare them for entry into kindergarten. Thank you to the staff at Ross School for providing the preschool students with these exciting experiences.

# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MARCH 2016

Mar 8	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town hall
Mar 10	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 11	--	--	Election filing period deadline (for Candidates and Incumbents)
Mar 22	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 26	1:00	pm	Spring Fling, Ross Common

## APRIL 2016

Apr 14	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Apr 26	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Apr 27	9:00	am	Special Council Meeting Annual Budget Workshop, MAGC, Room E120

## MAY 2016

May 7	9:00	am	Ross School Garden Tour, Ross Common
May 10	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
May 12	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
May 24	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
May 30	--	--	Town Hall offices closed Memorial Day

## RECURRING EVENTS

Thursdays, May - October      Ross Farm Stand, 11:00 am -7:30 pm, Ross Common - starts May 5th

## CONTACT US

Administration	415.453.1453 x105	Public Works	415.453.1453 x106
Building	415.453.1453 x106	Recreation	415.453.6020
Planning	415.453.1453 x121	Ross Valley Fire	415.258.4686
Police	415.453.1453, Option 2	Town Manager	415.453.1453 x107

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Visit us at [www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org)



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