

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Katie Hoertkorn

What a great 4th of July parade!! While it may not be long, it is full of enthusiasm, and truly reflective of our Town spirit. We loved the Marin Golden Gate Barbershop Quartet and

the Shady Lane singers (AKA the Shady Ladies). Many thanks to Mike Armstrong and Ross Recreation for the parade, picnic, entertainment, and games!! And thanks to a grant, our lovely canvas Town of Ross bags were a hit too. Our next event will be our Town Dinner on September 30th. This year's dinner will be on the Ross Commons, so please plan to join the fun!

We are pleased to be proceeding with the renovation of the Sir Francis Drake Boulevard/Bolinas intersection which will improve the road, sidewalk, pedestrian

Continued on Page 2

Ross Honors Former Council Member



Former Council Member Carla Small was honored with a reception at Town Hall attended by many members of the community. Following the reception, she was formally recognized at the July Council meeting and presented with a Resolution and commemorative gifts from the Town.

Small served on the Council for six years, and as Mayor from July 2011 to July 2012. She will be remembered for her leadership, energy, and perseverance in spearheading the campaign for the public safety tax measure in 2012



and its successful passage, her commitment to open government transparency and fairness, her diligence in serving on numerous boards and committees, and for her thoughtfulness and commitment to the Town. She will especially be remembered for her generosity in providing a box of chocolates at every Council meeting. She will definitely be missed! ■



IN THIS ISSUE

2. 4th of July Celebration Photos
3. Planning
3. Good Neighbor Reminder
3. Short Term Rentals
4. Construction Contracts Awarded
4. Recreation
5. Calendar

Council Sworn In for Second Term

Elizabeth Brekhuis, Katie Hoertkorn and Beach Kuhl were sworn into office to begin their second four-year term as Council members. Former Council member Rupert Russell was sworn in as a Council member to serve a two-year term filling the seat vacated by Carla Small.





Mayor's Corner - continued from page 1

crossing, and traffic signal. Work will start in August and finish by mid-October. A portion of the sidewalk along Sir Francis Drake is also being replaced, and will be done by the end of September. Thank you to all for your patience during the recent MMWD improvements as they replaced pipes that were up to 100 years old. This fall the sewer district will begin replacing pipes, starting with Shady Lane. We will send out weekly notices to the community keeping everyone updated as work progresses.

At our June meeting, Council voted on the extension of the Safety Tax measure to be placed on the ballot in November. Since our principal source of revenue is a small percentage of our Town's property tax (the Town receives less than 19% of the property tax), and since we lack any meaningful sales tax and do not have a lodging tax base, we depend upon the Safety Tax measure to fund full time police and fire protection services.



And we also recognized tonight the extraordinary community service and dedication of Carla Small, who served as Council member from July 2010 to June 2016, and as Mayor from July 2011-July 2012. We will miss her wisdom, experience, and knowledge, and so much appreciate the time she gave to Ross.

I will be in front of the Ross Post Office, August 10th from 10-11 a.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. ■

Ross 4th of July Celebration - A big thank you to Recreation and all who participated!



Photos courtesy of Audrey Hildebrand

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the July Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the [July 14th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be available on this page after adoption by the Council at the August Council meeting.

Address: 24 Redwood Drive
Applicant: Naaim Karkabi
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Good Neighbor Reminder



Who let the dogs out?

Ross is a very dog-friendly town with many dog owners. As we all know, owning a dog comes with certain responsibilities. The Police Department has been receiving ongoing complaints of barking dogs throughout the day and evening hours. The Ross Municipal Code ([Section 8.04.155](#)) prohibits barking dogs and unreasonable animal noise, stating:

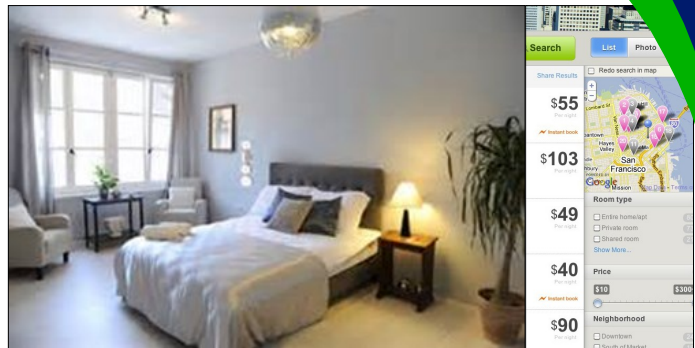
“(a) It is unlawful for any person to suffer or permit any dog, cat, fowl, or other animal to habitually bark, yelp, howl or create noise in such a manner which unreasonably disturbs the peace of any person(s). (b) Any person who shall keep or permit to remain on any premises, an animal which disturbs the peace of any person in the manner set forth in subsection (a) of this section shall be guilty of an infraction for a first offense and for a subsequent second offense...”

Upon numerous complaints the owner may be issued a citation, and shall constitute a public nuisance under the provisions of [Chapter 9.04](#) of the Ross Municipal Code. Property owners are reminded it is their responsibility to control their dogs and if they bark, they should be kept inside. Neighbors and Police have observed the barking occurs mostly when the dog is left outside, and the owners are not home. While we all love our furry friends, no one wants to listen to a barking dog.

To

Regulate or Not?

That is the Short-Term Rental Question....



As the popularity of hosting platform websites such as Airbnb and VRBO grows, cities across the country are attempting to address issues associated within short-term and/or home sharing rental regulations in residential neighborhoods. In February 2015, at the request of the Town's Finance Committee, the Council considered whether or not to regulate short-term rentals and if so, what methods should be used. At that meeting, the Council concluded that there did not seem to be many short-term rentals to warrant regulations.

Fast forward a year and a half and the popularity of hosting platform websites such as Airbnb, VRBO, and Homeaway continues to grow. There are currently 14 short-term rental listings (1.4% of the parcels in Ross) that can be seen on some or all of the above listed platforms. The short term rental listings range from the renting of a bedroom or the rental of the entire residence.

Short-term rentals would provide both opportunities and challenges for the Town of Ross. Short-term rentals could attract and host tourists to support the local businesses, allow residents to generate some income, as well as potentially being able to collect a transient occupancy tax upon voter approval. The challenges associated with short term rentals is that without establishing proper regulations, the short-term rentals could adversely impact the Ross community and neighborhood character, such as increased traffic and parking, noise, and trash.

After vetting at last night's meeting, the Council agreed to solicit further input from the community before a decision on this matter can be made.

For more info on this topic or to provide input on whether or not you support short-term rentals, contact Planning Manager Heidi Scoble at hscoble@townofross.org.





PW Construction Contracts Awarded

The Council awarded the following two Public Works construction contracts:

1) Bolinas Avenue and Sir Francis Drake Blvd Intersection Improvements -

Awarded to Ghilotti Construction in the amount of \$436,540. This project was approved for funding through a federal grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) program. The goal of this project is local street and road preservation, streetscape enhancements, and bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The project limits are along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard from approximately 350' south of Bolinas Avenue to 280' north of Bolinas Avenue, and pedestrian improvements along Bolinas Avenue from Sir Francis Drake Boulevard to Shady Lane. The intersection improvements include asphalt grinding and paving, traffic signalization improvements, pedestrian improvements at landscaped islands, improved ADA curb ramps, replacing curb, gutter and sidewalk, and new pavement stripping and markings. The Town of Ross and the Town of San Anselmo are splitting the costs that exceed the grant funded amount. The work is scheduled to begin in August 2016 with an anticipated construction completion date of mid-October 2016.



2) Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Sidewalk Replacement -

Awarded to Coastside Concrete & Construction, Inc. The sidewalk in front of 74 to 86 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard has been unevenly lifted due to tree roots. The Town determined that the trees and sidewalk need to be removed and replaced in the interest of public safety and to be ADA compliant.



The contractor is allowed 20 working days and construction is to be completed by the end of September 2016.

RECREATION NEWS

Ross Recreation is offering new programs for the end of the summer season. These programs will be conducted in late July and early August. Programs include mountain biking, girl's basketball and boy's lacrosse.

Boys Lacrosse Camp with coach Drew Virk



Learn the individual fundamentals of Lacrosse through fun games and competitions!. Drew Virk is the head coach for the Stanford men's lacrosse team and offers this camp for the Ross community, where he was raised.

July 25 – July 28, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., 9 - 14 years

Middle School Girls Basketball Clinic with coach Caren Horstmeyer



Take your game to a new level at Caren Horstmeyer's Girl's Basketball Clinic! Caren is a former Cal Bears woman's basketball coach and conducts beginner to advanced activities, designed for all who attend.

August 15 & 16, 9:00 a.m. to Noon, Grades 6 – 8

Mountain Biking with Dan Heffernan



Come blaze the trails with experienced down hill rider/racer Dan Heffernan. Gain the confidence and endurance necessary to enjoy mountain biking safely while having fun and learning new skills to improve your riding abilities. All levels of riders welcome. Come explore the many trails of the Mt. Tam watershed on your bike!

August 1 – August 5, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Grades 3 - 5

Register at www.rossrecreation.org

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2016

July 4	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Independence Day
July 4	11:00	am	Ross 4th of July Celebration, Ross Common
July 14	5:00	pm	Reception for Council Member Carla Small, Town Hall
July 14	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
July 26	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

AUGUST 2016

Aug 11	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Aug 23	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

SEPTEMBER 2016

Sep 5	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Labor Day
Sep 8	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Sep 27	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

RECURRING EVENTS

Thursdays, June - October	Ross Farm Stand, 11:30 am - 7:30 pm, Ross Common
Thursdays Jun 23-Aug 11	Marin Art & Garden Center Free Summer Concert Series, 5:00-7:00 pm

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

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 320, Ross, CA 94957
 Street Address: 31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Ross, CA 94957

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