

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Katie Hoertkorn

With the Town of Ross Fee Study completed and approved this month, the Council will now begin a review of the planning codes. The Town's first complete set of planning code regulations go back to 1957, and have never been comprehensively reviewed. These codes must be evaluated from a 21st century perspective, and we must be certain that the code both reflects the current values of the community, and the intent and code language are clear. With the professional input of our Town Planner, Heidi Scoble, we now have the opportunity to bring these codes up to date and clarify any ambiguities.

Last night we discussed the Public Safety Tax Measure that will be on the ballot

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Council Vacancy Discussed

Councilmember Carla Small has announced she will be moving from Ross on June 30, 2016, and therefore will be resigning from her position as Town Councilmember on June 30, 2016.



Carla Small

Councilmember Small was elected to the Town Council in 2010, served as Mayor in 2011, and was reappointed to office in March 2014. Her second four-year term would expire in June 2018. During her tenure, she has held numerous committee/board appointments including the Ross Valley Fire District Board, Marin Energy Authority Board, Transportation Authority of Marin, Finance Committee, Public Works Committee, and Community Protection Committee. She was also instrumental in spearheading the campaign to get the Public Safety Tax measure passed in 2012. She will most definitely be missed.

The Town will recognize Councilmember Small for her service at the July 14th Council meeting, and a reception will be held prior to the meeting at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall, which everyone is welcome to attend.

Government Code Section 36512 governs the procedure for filling a vacancy on the Town Council. The Council is authorized to fill the vacancy created by Councilmember Small's resignation by either making an appointment or calling a special election.

The Council decided to fill the Council term which will expire in June 2018 by appointment rather than an election for several reasons. Since the next regularly established election date is November 2016, a special election could not be held until then, whereas an appointment could be made before the July Council meeting in which the Council seat would otherwise be vacant. Also, there were no additional candidates that filed for office other than the three incumbents for the June 2016 election. Additionally, there is a cost associated with holding a special election.

The Council will look to make an appointment at the June 14th Council meeting. ■

this November. The Public Safety Tax measure must be approved by two thirds vote. Without this tax, we cannot provide our level of Town services. Fire and Police services are crucial to our residents, and this tax allows the Town to continue these services unabated.

I must sadly note that Carla Small is leaving Council at the end of June after 6 years as a Councilmember and former Mayor. Carla passionately cares about the Town, is impartial, organized, hard-working and always takes on whatever task needs to be done. She has been essential to shaping the decisions of this community. Her accomplishments are many and reach back to chairing the Ross School Auctions, Ross School Parcel Tax, the Town Public Safety Tax, and restructuring of the Town itself. Carla is a champion of Ross, and we have all benefited from her decades of commitment and achievements on our behalf. Please join us before the Council meeting at 5 p.m. on July 14th to celebrate her service to Ross. We will greatly miss her experience, common sense, and wise counsel. ■



Budget Workshop Highlights

The Council held a workshop on April 27th to consider the draft Fiscal Year budget for 2016-17 (FYE17) which begins on July 1, 2016. The budget was developed based on the continuing objectives of providing quality services to the community in an efficient, effective, responsive, and financially responsible manner. The budget includes existing services and new projects and programs that have been discussed by the Council during the course of the year. Some of the new projects and programs approved for the proposed budget include the following:

- Review and amend a variety of Planning Codes to be more clear in intent and code language
- Advisory Design Review (ADR) assessment and possible revisions
- Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan development
- Building Code update and adoption for 2017
- New and expanded Recreation programs to assist in meeting community needs
- Technology - new Planning and Building permit tracking software
- Police body camera system and incentivize resident installation on cameras that can assist police investigations
- Public Safety parcel tax on November 2016 ballot
- Natalie Coffin Greene Park and Three Bear Hut design and rehabilitation plans

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New Maintenance Worker Hired



Anthony Alcozer

There's a new kid in town. Anthony Alcozer joined the Town of Ross on April 18th as the Town's new Maintenance Worker replacing Buzz Doughty who retired last year. Anthony will be working alongside Superintendent Robert Maccario, taking care of the Town's streets, parks

and grounds. You will see him around town mowing lawns, weeding, trimming hedges, and doing whatever else needs to be done.

Anthony's past experience includes a wide variety of construction and maintenance activities, customer service, and retail management. Born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, he moved to northern California over nine years ago with his wife and three children. They currently live on a small farm in Santa Rosa. Spare time is spent coaching youth basketball, and keeping up with an endless list of farm chores. Anthony is currently pursuing a B.A. in Communications from Arizona State University. He has received a warm welcome from staff and community, and has stated "I look forward to servicing the Town and meeting many more community residents during my daily activities."

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the May Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the [May 12th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be available on this page after adoption by the Council at the June Council meeting.

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

Address: 4 Allen Avenue
Applicant: Mark Dumolien & Carolyn Brown
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 47 Poplar Avenue
Applicant: Mark & Sonya Manning
Council Action: Continued
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-2-0 (Hoertkorn, Small opposed)

Budget

Workshop Highlights

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- Sir Francis Drake/Bolinas Avenue intersection and pedestrian improvements
- Bolinas Avenue pavement rehabilitation completed by November 2017
- Drainage improvements at various locations to assist with localized nuisance flooding
- Various repairs of Town Hall and Public Safety building facilities

The Town has been diligent in being financially responsible in ensuring that all on-going expenses are covered by on-going revenues and that one-time revenues are utilized for capital expenditures and to reduce long-term cost obligations to save on future interests and other costs. The Town's largest revenue source is property tax which accounts for 53% of all General Fund and Public Safety Tax fund revenues. Unlike many jurisdictions, the Town does not have a large sales tax base or any hotel/motel taxes or a utility user's tax, and instead relies mainly on property taxes, the public safety tax, fees for services, and grants to provide services. The budget for FYE17 results in a small positive net surplus to the General Fund (revenues slightly above expenses) and significant spending on Town facilities such as roadways and drainage improvements. ■



RECREATION NEWS

Registration is open for the Ross Recreation Summer Programs. Many new activities are available in addition to our popular Adventure, Top Gun and Sporty Girls Camps. Visit our website at www.rossrec.org to register! Get your Summer on!

New and Exciting Summer Programs



Girls Basketball 2-Day Clinic (grades 6-8)
8/15 & 8/16

Mountain Bike Camp (grades 6-9)
6/20, 6/27, 7/18, 8/1 9am - 1pm

Rainbow Chefs (grades 1-8) 7/25 9am-12noon

Gone Fishin'! (grades 4-8) 7/25 9am - 3pm

RC remote control Car Mechanics Shop (grades K-8)
week of 7/5 with class times starting at 9am, 11:30am, or 3pm

details online! www.rossrecreation.org





PUBLIC SAFETY



Home Security Video Program

The Town of Ross experienced an unusually high number of thefts within a short time frame late last year. As a result, the Town looked into methods that might be useful in deterring crime and assisting in identifying the people responsible. As a result, the Town Council approved a pilot program

The Ross Town Council approved a pilot program for the Town to collaborate with residents to provide an incentive to install home security cameras that can assist with Police Investigations.

How does this work:

The Town will provide up to \$500 for a resident that is willing to place a camera, or add an additional camera to their home security system and provide the police access to the footage.



- The camera must be placed at a location that provides view out to the street. The Ross Police will need to approve of the placement for funding approval.
- The resident will be responsible for installing and maintaining the camera and system.
- The resident must agree to allow police to access the footage when needed and the system must preserve footage for no less than one week.

The funding is limited and residents interested may contact Chief Erik Masterson for more details at 415 453-1453 ext. 101, emasterson@townofross.org. ■

FLASHBACK TRIVIA ~

The Town and its Bear

Many of you may know that the Bear standing guard over Town Hall was sculpted by Beniamino (Benny) Bufano, a renowned modernist artist best known for his large-scale monuments representing

peace, smoothly rounded animals and relatively simple shapes. The question is how did the Bear come to land in Ross? The answer lies with a donation of the Bear from a former Ross resident. The Bear was originally purchased from Bufano by Jerome and Peggy Flax, who



resided at 10 Lagunitas Road. Jerry Flax, a businessman and entrepreneur, who was also known for making a world class martini, was a friend, advisor, and benefactor of Bufano's work. The Flax's had purchased the Bear from Bufano and the Bear stood proudly at the Flax's home until the home was sold in 1971.

If it wasn't for the quick thinking and action by newly appointed Councilman Alan Preston Maginis (appointed in January 1971), the Flax's were going to donate the Bear to the Marin Art and Garden Center. Maginis learned of the pending donation and asked the Flax's if they would be willing to reconsider donating the Bear to the Town of Ross instead. Within a couple days, the Town Council unanimously voted to accept the donation of the Bear. Shortly after, the Bear was relocated to Town Hall and has been the symbol of the Town since then.

Good Chicken Reminder



Raising chickens has become popular in Ross. No permit is required for keeping chickens. However, the Town regulates where they may be kept and the location of chicken coop structures. Any chicken cage or coop must meet Town development regulations, including setback and lot coverage requirements.

Town Council approval of a setback variance is required prior to placing any structure within a setback area. It is unlawful to keep chickens within fifty feet of a neighbor's residence or within fifty feet of any street or other public place. Chicken enclosures must be kept clean and free from offensive odors. See Town of Ross Municipal Code [Chapter 8.16](#) for more information.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2016

May 7	9:00	am	Ross 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

JUNE 2016

June 14*	6:30	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall (<i>*note date/time change</i>)
June 28	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

JULY 2016

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

RECURRING EVENTS

Thursdays, May - October Ross Farm Stand, 11:30 am - 7:30 pm, Ross Common

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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