

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Robbins
Mayor Pro Tem

I am filling in on behalf of Mayor Hoertkorn while she is on medical leave, and we look forward to her returning soon.

Although there are still two more weeks before the official end of summer, Ross School students have already been in class for several weeks. As always, residents should drive carefully, especially during the morning and afternoon drop-off and pick-up. Erik Masterson, Ross Chief of Police, or one of his officers is usually in front of the school during these times, helping to ensure the children's safety.

The annual Town Dinner is scheduled for Friday September 30 from 5:30-9:00 pm. This year the dinner returns to the center of town, in front of the post office. Last year over 500 residents attend-

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Measure K - Ross Public Safety Tax

This November, Ross residents will be voting on Measure K which would reauthorize a special tax for public safety services in the Town of Ross. The current public safety tax will expire on June 30, 2017. Measure K if passed would authorize the Town to collect a special tax for public safety services from July



1, 2017 for eight years until June 2025. The special tax would be set at \$970 per parcel and would be inflated each year by the Consumer Price Index beginning in fiscal year 2018-19. All proceeds of the special tax must to be placed in a special fund to be used solely for the purpose of providing public safety services (police and fire services) in the Town. The ballot measure requires a two-thirds voter approval in order to pass.

The special tax has been an important component of funding Ross services since the 1980's when it was first authorized. Unlike many cities and towns, the Town of Ross does not have a large sales tax base or any hotel/motel taxes or a utility user's tax and instead relies on property taxes, fees, and grants to provide services. The public safety tax that was approved by the Town residents in 2012 currently raises \$791,000 of the \$3,453,000 budgeted for the fire and police department budgets.

Measure K is critical to maintaining police and fire services for the community. If Measure K does not pass, the Town will have to look at alternative service options for police and fire services to significantly reduce costs. This may include contracting with the County Sheriff's office or a neighboring police department for police services. For fire services, the Town is currently staffed by a two person crew 24/7 from the Ross Fire Station. Without the Measure K funds, there is a possibility that the Ross Fire Station may be closed in which case services will need to be provided from neighboring communities.

The election is November 8th. If you are not registered to vote, the deadline to register is October 24, 2016. You may register online at: <http://registertovote.ca.gov/>. ■



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ed last year's Town Dinner, and we're expecting even more people this year! Come join your neighbors for a fun, informal evening. See article below for details on how to register to attend the event.



Ross residents will soon be voting on Measure K, which would renew the Town's public safety funding, at essentially the same level, for an 8-year period. The tax, which was first approved in the 1980s, provides funding for police and fire services. The Town keeps only 18.6 cents of every dollar that residents pay in property taxes; the rest goes to the county, state, and other government agencies. The Town's operating expenses, including those for police and fire services, exceed the revenue from property taxes, and Ross, unlike many towns, doesn't have significant sales tax revenue to cover these expenses. Without Measure K, the Town may need to close the Ross police station and contract with the county or another government agency for police services or may need to close the Ross fire station which is currently staffed 24/7. Measure K requires a 2/3 vote to pass.

The first part of the repair work to Lagunitas is complete and the current schedule calls for a slurry seal of Lagunitas between Sylvan Lane and Glenwood Avenue to occur the beginning of next week. Thank you for your patience while we get the infrastructure repaired which will improve the useful life and reduce maintenance costs of the facilities in the future. ■

Ross Town Dinner - Friday, September 30th - Registration Info

The annual Ross Town Dinner is a memorable event for Ross residents, one you don't want to miss. Bring your own picnic and beverage and dine with your fellow community members under the stars. Here are the details for the event.

- Date:** Friday, September 30, 2016
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Place: Ross Commons (Note: Ross Common street will be closed for the event from Lagunitas Road to just past the Ross Post Office beginning at 4:00 p.m. through 10:00 p.m.)
Cost: \$10 per person (Adults and Children) Please note there will be no organized child care for this event.



The Town will provide tables, chairs, linens and live music. So we know how many tables and chairs to have on hand, it is necessary for everyone attending to register for the event.

Registration: You may register online or by mail. The deadline for registration is **Monday, September 26th.**

- To register online and pay by credit card, go to http://www.rossrecreation.org/ross_dinner.html. (Note credit card payment is only available online).
- To register by postal mail and pay by check, **make check payable to "Town of Ross"** and mail to: Ross Recreation Department - Town Dinner, P.O. Box 117, Ross, CA 94957 (include names of all attendees you are registering).

We hope you can join us for this beloved Town event. Please direct any questions regarding the event to the Recreation Department at rossrec@rossrecreation.org.

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the September Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the [September 8th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be available on this page after adoption by the Council at the October Council meeting.

Address: 1 Southwood Avenue
Applicant: Leslie & Jeff Bergholt
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-1 (Robbins recused)

Address: 20 Glenwood Avenue
Applicant: Hildene VT, LLC
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-0

Portable Building Approved

The Council approved the installation of a temporary portable building (behind Town Hall) to house consolidated offices for the Building, Planning and Public Works Department staff, as an interim solution to the Town's office space challenges.

Over the past decade, modifications to Town Hall to create more space have been considered. Town Hall currently has only four offices to conduct its normal operating functions including an inadequate conference room. The offices are spatially in odd locations relative to each other making it neither efficient or effective for customers and staff. The Council Chambers has been serving as office space for contract building staff, the Office Assistant, and the prior Public Works Director (a position which is now being recruited for).

The Building, Planning and Public Works Departments serve the development customers in the Town and have frequent interaction with each other. Locating these departments in one area will assist the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery for our customers.

The portable building will be painted a dark color to blend in with the area and will be heavily screened with landscaping.



Ross Takes Action on Climate Change

Ross and Marin's other municipalities are doing their part to assist California's globally significant effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). By meeting the goals in Ross' Climate Change Plan the Town can do its part to address the consequences of unchecked climate change. And in Marin County, 60% of the carbon emissions come from its residents.

That's where Resilient Neighborhoods (RN) comes in. Since 2012, RN has helped Marin's residents decrease their household carbon footprints. To date, 254 Marin households have reduced 2.85 million pounds of CO₂. RN has been working with the Ross Property Owners Association to encourage Ross residents to participate.

The Resilient Neighborhoods Program is successful and effective because it's done in a team of five or more households. Each household goes on a 'low-carbon' diet to reduce 5,000 pounds in 60 days. Team members attend five free, facilitated meetings. They start the program by calculating their carbon footprint and then take actions to reduce it. The actions involve simple changes—how we get places, how we use energy and water, how much we waste and even what we purchase and eat—they all make a difference and add up. The program also includes actions on emergency preparedness and supporting local business and agriculture. You can sign up for the program in a class at the San Rafael Community Center or Mill Valley Public Library. There is still some space available but classes start on 9/13 and 9/14 respectively. So register now at: <http://www.resilientneighborhoods.org/sign-up-for-a-team-or-register-for-a-class.html>. RN can also help you organize a team of neighbors or friends. Learn more by going to: www.resilientneighborhoods.org or contact Tamra Peters at resilientneighborhoods@gmail.com.





RECREATION NEWS

Registration for the popular Ross Recreation youth soccer and basketball programs is currently open. Soccer will run from September through mid-November. Basketball will be held from late November through the first week of March.

The Ross Preschool year began on September 7th at St. John's Church. Our teachers have implemented a wide ranging causal learning curriculum using environmental elements and emphasizing cooperative projects. Please visit the school website at: www.therosspreschool.org for further details on this program.



NEW! The Ross Recreation Fall brochure is now available in PDF format on the Ross Recreation website.

TOWN OF
ROSS **FALL 2016**
RECREATION CHILDREN & ADULTS
DEPARTMENT
FALL IS BACK!

Serving the Entire Ross Valley Community

REGISTER ONLINE NOW AT WWW.ROSSRECREATION.ORG

Visit the website at www.rossrecreation.org to register for Fall programs.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2016

Sep 5	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Labor Day
Sep 8	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Sep 13	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee, Town Hall
Sep 27	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Sep 30	5:30-9	pm	Annual Town Dinner, Ross Common <i>(see page 2 for details)</i>

OCTOBER 2016

Oct 13	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 25	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

NOVEMBER 2016

Nov 8	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee, Town Hall
Nov 10	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 11	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Veterans Day
Nov 15	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 24-25	--	--	Town Offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday

RECURRING EVENTS

Thursdays, June - 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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