

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 11 | Issue 12 | December 2017

### Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Robbins, MD  
Mayor

Santa Claus came to Ross! This year's Winter Sing, organized by the Ross Auxiliary, was held last Sunday on the Ross Common. Residents were treated to a delightful performance by the very accomplished singers of the Ross Middle School Chorus. Following this, Ross

Preschool children sang traditional songs, including "Jingle Bells" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas". While waiting for Santa's sleigh (a fire engine), children and adults enjoyed hot chocolate, cookies, and candy canes, donated and served by Ross Barclay from Café Ross. Santa arrived just as the Town's tree was lit for the first time this season. Thank you to Ross Auxiliary members Julie McGuire, Diana Werner, and Emily Abbott for

*Continued on Page 2*

### New Council Member Appointed

At a special Council meeting on December 6th, the Town Council appointed Julie McMillan to fill the Council seat vacated by Katie Hoertkorn. The Council received a total of eight applications for the Council seat, and ended up only interviewing four candidates, as four of the applicants withdrew their application. It was encouraging to see so many enthusiastic residents interested in serving on the Council. Thank you to all who applied for the Council seat.



Julie McMillan  
Council Member

Julie McMillan moved to Ross with her husband, Tim Baughman, in 1992. After graduating from UCLA and Stanford Law School, Julie practiced complex litigation at O'Melveny & Myers until 1999. All three of her children graduated from Ross School, where Julie was elected to the School Board (2003-07) and served as Capital Campaign Chair (2006-10), Endowment President (2001-04), Foundation President (2002-03), and Margie Burke Speech Tournament Chair (2011). Julie was also President of Ross Parks and Recreation (2001-02) and campaigned for the last two Ross Parcel Tax Measures. She has held leadership positions in other Marin County schools and nonprofits, including at The Branson School, Redwood High School, Family & Children's Law Center (2003-08), Sunny Hills Services (2003-09), Ross Valley Women's League (2001-04), National Charity League, Marin Chapter (2008-14), and Bridge The Gap College Prep (Marin City) (2017- ).

Julie will serve from December 2017 to June 2018. She was officially sworn in at the December 14th Council meeting.



There will be a Council election on June 5, 2018, to fill the seat remaining two-year term of Katie Hoertkorn, as well as two (2) four-year terms which are expiring

(those of Mayor Robbins and Council Member Rupert Russell). Further information on the June election process for running for Council, will be announced in late January 2018.

### IN THIS ISSUE

2. Flood Control Project Update
3. Planning
3. New Ordinances Introduced
3. Ross Auxiliary Winter Dinner
4. Zero Waste Marin Holiday Tips
4. Recreation
4. Town Hall Holiday Closure
5. Calendar



organizing this lovely event.

The Council held a special meeting on December 6 to select a new council member to replace Katie Hoertkorn, who stepped down last month for health reasons. Eight residents submitted applications; all were extremely well qualified. After reviewing applications prior to the meeting and interviewing candidates during the meeting, council members selected Julie McMillan to fill the vacant seat. Julie is well known for her work on numerous boards and committees in Ross and in the larger community, and served on the Ross School Board from 2003-2007. Councilmember McMillan's appointment runs from December 2017 through June 2018. In June 2018 there will be three council seats up for election: a two-year seat, currently held by Julie MacMillan, and two four-year seats, currently held by Rupert Russell and Elizabeth Robbins. In 2020 the usual four-year terms for all seats will resume: there will be three four-year council seats up for election.



Ross preschool students at Winter Sing Sunday, December 10

The Ross Town Council and town staff members wish all residents a happy and safe holiday season. Please note that town offices will be closed during the following days of the holiday season: December 25-January 1. Town Hall will reopen on Tuesday January 2. Happy Holidays! ■

## Corte Madera Creek Flood Control Project Update

Last night the Town Council passed a resolution acknowledging the potential flood control benefits of the Marin County Flood Control District's Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Reduction Project Phase One and continuing with development of the conceptual plan. The project consists of removing the fish ladder in the creek behind the Post Office parking lot, and over 800 feet of concrete channel along Frederick Allen Park. The creek corridor along the park would be widened, and flood barriers (walls or earth berms) would be constructed to prevent floodwaters from overtopping the creek during the larger storms. The project will require a complete reconstruction and revegetation of the mid-portion of Frederick Allen Park, but it will also provide new public access opportunities along the newly restored creek bed during most of the year. The wide swath of publicly-owned land in this area allows for the design of a smooth and hydraulically efficient transition back to the concrete channel next to the tennis courts, an option that was unavailable to the Corps of Engineers when the project ended abruptly at the fish ladder back in 1971. The passing of the resolution gives a nod to the Marin County Flood Control District to proceed with further project design and development through the preparation of the environmental impact report and is an important first step in bringing the project closer to the completion deadline of June, 2020. The Town Council and staff will have additional opportunities to review the project during the Design Review public hearing process with Town Council vote on the detailed Design Review and all agreements with the Flood Control District in late 2018 or early 2019.



## PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the December Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [December 14th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the January 11, 2018 Council meeting.

**Address:** 200 Hillside Avenue  
**Applicant:** Chris & Sheri Erickson  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 3-0-2 (*Kuhl recused/ Russell absent*)

**Address:** 205 Lagunitas Road  
**Applicant:** Lagunitas Country Club  
**Council Action:** Continued to January 11th

**Address:** 40 Madrona Avenue  
**Applicant:** Chad & Amy Lewis  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 4-0-1 (*Russell absent*)

**Address:** 18 Sylvan Lane  
**Applicant:** Dan Little & Elena Batalla  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 4-0-1 (*Russell absent*)



## New

### Ordinances - continued

2) **Tree Ordinance.** The Town of Ross has a long history of being proactive regarding the protection and maintenance of our extensive and beautiful tree canopy. This ordinance (Ross Municipal Code Chapter 12.24) which was last updated in 2015, has expanded over the years to provide the structure for regulating the removal of trees through the issuance of a "Tree Alteration or Removal Permit" and allows for a tree removal permit applicant to pay an "in-lieu" fee to the town under certain circumstances, instead of planting a replacement tree. On November 9, 2017 the Town staff received direction from the Town Council to amend the ordinance to clarify when a tree is being removed due to it being a hazard to a physical structure, and reduce the in-lieu fee for such cases. Other minor ordinance changes include bringing the regulatory responsibility for tree removal back to the Public Works Department and provide some flexibility to the Town on how the in lieu fee revenue can be spent.



3) **Recreational Vehicle (RV) Parking Within Town Limits.** The Council approved prohibiting parking of RVs on public streets and right-of-ways within the Town. The ordinance also limits RV parking on private property to the following:

*Continued on Page 4*

## New Ordinances Introduced

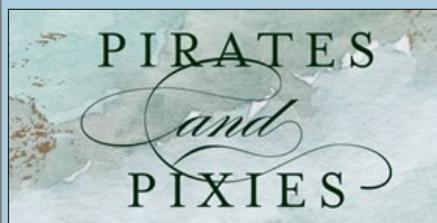
Three new ordinances were introduced at the December 14th Council meeting. Here is a brief summary of each:

1) **Smoking Regulations.** At the October 12th Council meeting, Council directed staff to amend the current Smoking Regulations to address new and existing multi-unit residences, regulating the sale of tobacco products, adding new definitions such as bar, child care facilities, electronic smoking device, recreational area, etc., and prohibiting smoking on active construction sites. The smoking regulations have not been updated since 2007.



*Continued*

## Ross Auxiliary Winter Dinner February 10, 2018



The Ross Auxiliary invites you to take part in the tradition of Winter Dinner. All proceeds from this year's Winter Dinner will support the upcoming renovation of

Pixie Park, the playground located in the Marin Art & Garden Center. Tickets are \$175/person and can be purchased at [www.rosswinterdinner.com](http://www.rosswinterdinner.com).

### Winter Dinner Schedule

**5:00-7:00 PM:** Cocktail Party & Auction at the Marin Art & Garden Center (Dinner assignments will be given at MAGC)

**7:00-10:00 PM:** Dinner at private residences in Ross



## ZERO WASTE MARIN HOLIDAY TIPS

Zero Waste Marin works with cities throughout Marin County to educate residents about reducing the amount of waste that goes into our local landfills. Here are a few tips to help reduce waste this holiday season.

### Holiday Shopping

- When out shopping for the perfect party favor or present, please support our locally owned businesses in Marin.
- Carry your own reusable bags for holiday shopping, and avoid taking a paper bag for your purchases.
- If you're gifting electronic gadgets or toys, choose rechargeable batteries and consider including a battery charger with your gift as well.

### Alternative Gift Wrap

Single use wrapping paper creates a huge amount of waste each year. Instead of purchasing a new roll of wrapping paper and ribbon, shop your home for unique wrapping materials such as gift bags or reusable shopping bags, tins or baskets.

### Never Burn Wrapping Paper!

It is illegal to burn trash and wrapping paper. But did



you know that wrapping paper is not recyclable because of the shiny, glossy glitter and foil? It must be thrown in the landfill bin. This is especially true now that markets for recycled paper are becoming extremely strict about what they will accept. To help save resources, if you must use wrapping paper, try to save and reuse it next holiday season.

### New Ordinances - continued from Page 3

1) must be parked in the driveway; 2) must be set back a minimum of 15 feet from the roadway edge; 3) may not be parked longer than 3 days, unless the owner has erected a fence or screening (subject to Town approval) that substantially blocks the view from public view; and 4) no living quarters shall be maintained or business conducted within a parked or stored RV. ■



## RECREATION NEWS

The Ross Recreation Youth Basketball program held skills clinics at Redwood High on Sunday, December 10th. Redwood High basketball coaches and players conducted the clinics. The clinics help the young hoopsters prepare for the team play portion of the youth basketball program, which begins Saturday, January 20th.



Head Coach Steve Campango



Girls Varsity Basketball Players

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

## Town Hall Offices - Holiday Closure

Town Hall offices of Administration, Building, Public Works, & Planning will be closed for the holidays **December 25th through January 1, 2018**. If you have business needs with these departments, please address them before or after the closure. Police and Ross Valley Fire will remain open 24/7. During the closure, if you need an Encroachment Permit, please email [publicworks@townofross.org](mailto:publicworks@townofross.org), and someone will respond to you. To schedule a Building Inspection, please leave a voicemail message on the Building Inspector's phone line (415-453-1453 ext. 170), and he will return your call. We will reopen for business Tuesday, January 2nd. Happy holidays to everyone!

# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## DECEMBER 2017

Dec 2	10:00	am	Get Ready Class, Town Hall
Dec 6	5:00	pm	Special Council Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 10	4:30	pm	Winter Sing Tree Lighting Ceremony, Ross Common
Dec 11	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 14	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 19	6:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 25-29	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Christmas holiday

## JANUARY 2018 - Happy New Year!

Jan 1	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for New Year's Day
Jan 8	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 11	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 15	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 23	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

## FEBRUARY 2018

Feb 5	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Feb 8	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Feb 10	5:00-10	pm	Ross Auxiliary Winter Dinner, Marin Art & Garden Center ( <i>see page 3</i> )
Feb 15	9:00	am	Special Council Meeting Annual Workshop, Livermore Room, MAGC
Feb 19	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Presidents Day
Feb 27	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

## CONTACT US

Administration	415.453.1453 x105	Public Works Director	415.453.1453 x115
Building & Public Works	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)



We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email [llopez@townofross.org](mailto:llopez@townofross.org)

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