

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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### Mayor's Corner



*Katie Hoertkorn*

Congratulations to Ross resident, Diane Doodha, who is the recipient of the Marin Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership's award for Excellence in Board Leadership. The annual Heart of Marin™ Awards honors local leaders and their causes. The Excellence in Board Leadership Award is presented to an exceptional volunteer member of a Marin non-profit board of directors. Diane has been a tireless advocate for the Marin Art & Garden Center (MAGC) and has played a crucial role in developing MAGC into the organization it is today. She was selected from 10 nominees for this prestigious award due to her efforts in turning MAGC around after a near closure. Thank you Diane for your outstanding dedication and work!

*Continued on Page 2*

### IN THIS ISSUE

2. Employee Appreciation
3. Planning
3. Short Term Rental Survey
3. CVNL Leadership Award
4. MMWD Water Update
4. Recreation
5. Calendar

### New Development Services Offices Open



ADA ramp and sidewalk paving.

The Building, Planning, and Public Works Departments have relocated to the portable building (behind Town Hall). They opened for business in their new location on Monday, February 6th. The move-in date had been delayed due to inclement weather which postponed the completion of the

The Council approved the temporary portable building back in September 2016, as an interim solution to the Town's office space challenges. The Building, Planning and Public Works Departments serve the development customers in 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 building provides private offices for the Planning Manager and Public Works Director, a larger work space for the Building Secretary, a larger reception area, and a conference room area that will serve for meetings and work space for the Town's contractors.

The portable building will house Simone Jamotte, Building and Public Works Secretary, Heidi Scoble, Planning Manager, Richard Simonitch, Public Works Director/Town Engineer, and the Town's Building contractors Sal Lucido, Building Official, and Thomas Thompson, Building Inspector.



Office hours for these departments are Monday thru Thursday, 8:30 to 12:00 noon. Afternoon appointments are available by appointment only. The visitors entrance to the building is accessed on the Lagunitas Road side of Town Hall.

As you may have read, the Branson School will no longer participate in the proposed project at the former Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley. After several years of exploration and collaboration with North Coast Land Holdings, Branson has announced that they will be staying in Ross. We look forward to learning about Branson's future plans, and thank them for their commitment to Ross.

It is not your imagination if you think that Ross has had an abundance of rain! Since October we have had 60 inches of rain, 20 inches more than the surrounding Towns and Cities! This week again, both Sir Francis Drake and Bolinas were closed for periods due to flooding. Also, we had to evacuate some homes on Sir Francis Drake when the Corte Madera Creek overflowed its banks. Thanks again to our excellent, devoted staff. Please continue to monitor your home and yard, keeping culverts free of debris. With the ground so saturated, a weakened tree can easily fall. If anyone is aware of a dead, or newly leaning tree, please let Town staff know.



*Passersby observe Corte Madera Creek rising Feb. 7, 2017*

Over the past few years, the Council has discussed the growing popularity of Airbnb in Ross. There are generally 12-18 listings of Ross property on the site. We would like to know what you think. A survey will be going out via email to all residents regarding Airbnb. We would appreciate your feedback on this emerging issue. ■

### **Employee Appreciation: Anthony Alcozer - Maintenance Man About Town**

Although he's only been working here for less than a year, Town of Ross's sole maintenance worker Anthony Alcozer has taken on every challenge that has been thrown his way. And especially during this, one of the wettest winters on record here in Ross, the ubiquitous Mr. Alcozer has shown his dedication to public service by keeping the Town's storm drains flowing, the vegetation cleared and the potholes filled.



*Alcozer clearing drainage ditches ahead of the storm.*

"He knows where the trouble spots are and he can anticipate the problems before they happen" says new Public Works Director and Anthony's immediate supervisor, Richard Simonitch.

In addition to his maintenance duties, Anthony has recently begun attending the monthly MCSTOPPP meetings in San Rafael, and has received certification in inspecting construction site erosion and sediment control practices. This type of real-world engineering problem solving has piqued Anthony's interest in possibly pursuing additional storm water management certification opportunities through MCSTOPPP and is looking into signing up for some Civil Engineering courses at Santa Rosa Junior College.

Anthony's 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.

## 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 [February 9th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be available on this page after adoption by the Council at the March Council meeting.

**Address:** 124 Winding Way  
**Applicant:** Rich & Leslie Tincher  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 4-0 (Kuhl absent)

## Short-Term Rentals Survey

Municipal regulation of short-term rental properties has been in the news a lot lately as cities and towns across the nation struggle with how to balance short-term rental property owners' rights with the interests of their surrounding neighbors. With the popularity of on-line hosting platform websites such as Airbnb, VRBO, and Homeaway to facilitate short term rentals, the short term rentals continues to grow. As of July 2017, there were 1.4% of the parcels in Ross that are actively listed on some or all of the short term rental hosting platform websites.



The Town Council initiated discussion on this topic in February 2015 and July 2016, to discuss whether policies should be developed to either prohibit or regulate short term rentals. In response to the July 2016 discussion, the Town Council directed staff to reach out to the community to understand the various perspectives on the issue. Staff has developed a short community survey to gauge public opinion on this issue. We are inviting residents, property and business owners to share your opinions on this issue by completing the survey. A link to the survey will be emailed to all listed on the Town-wide email distribution list, or you can access the survey by clicking [here](#). The survey is anonymous and will run from Friday, February 10, 2017 to March 3, 2017. The results of the survey will be presented at the May 2017 Council meeting. For more info on this topic or the survey, please email Heidi Scoble, Planning Manager, at [hscoble@townofross.org](mailto:hscoble@townofross.org).

## Diane Doodha Wins CVNL Board Leadership Award



The Marin Art & Garden Center (MAGC) announced that Board President, Diane Doodha, received the Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership's award for Excellence in Board Leadership.



*Diane Doodha*  
MAGC Board President

Mrs. Doodha has been a tireless advocate for the MAGC and has played a crucial role in developing MAGC into the organization it is today. She was selected from 10 nominees due to her efforts in turning MAGC around after near closure. During that time, she made decisions that led to the stabilization of MAGC's financials, the hiring of an Executive Director, the renovation of a historic gallery and the creation of new strategic partnerships.

"We are all proud of Diane and glad that she has received this well-deserved honor. Her dedication to MAGC saved the organization at a critical moment and has led to its rebirth as a strong and vital part of the community," said Antonia Adezio, Executive Director of the Marin Art & Garden Center.

The annual Heart of Marin™ Awards is the largest recognition event of its kind in the country honoring local leaders and their causes. On January 12, 2017, over 800 people attended the Awards Ceremony & Luncheon where the winners were announced. Winners were selected in 8 categories, including Excellence in Board Leadership, Corporate Community Service, Volunteer of the Year, Excellence in Innovation, Youth Volunteer of the Year, Achievement in Nonprofit Excellence, and Excellence in Leadership and Lifetime Achievement. The Excellence in Board Leadership Award is presented to an exceptional volunteer member of a Marin non-profit board of directors. In addition to the award, the winner is the recipient of a \$5,000 donation to their organization.

This was the 24th year the Heart of Marin™ awards have been presented by the Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership (CVNL). Since 1964, CVNL has advanced nonprofits and volunteerism by strengthening leadership, encouraging innovation, and empowering individuals throughout the Bay Area.



## MMWD Water Update

With the high volume of rain we have had this Winter, we decided to check in with Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) to see how the reservoirs are doing. Here is what they reported.

They are at 100% capacity - and spilling - at all their reservoirs, which is 79,566 acre feet of water, or 25,926,600,660 gallons of water. To date,

we are 121% above average for this time of year. We received 25.91 inches of rain in January, making it our wettest January since 1995 and our



7th wettest ever. Average for January is 10.85 inches. Highest January rainfall was 44.15 inches back in 1896. Rainfall year-to-date (since July 1) is 55.90 inches, which is almost twice the average for this date. With five months still to go in this rainfall year, we've already surpassed our total annual average of 51.8 inches\*. That means this will be our first year of above-average rainfall since 2010-11. \*based on 1880-2016.

“We’re always delighted to have a good rainfall year, and it’s particularly welcome after five straight years of below-average rainfall. At the same time, we know the next dry year could be right around the corner. That’s why it’s important to make conservation a way of life, and we are thankful to our customers for doing exactly that,” said Ann Vallee.

Historical perspective rainfall totals for the month of January:

Jan 2017	- 25.91 in.
Jan 2016	- 16.68 in.
Jan 2015	- 0.07 in.
Jan 2014	- 0.01 in.
Jan 2013	- 1.26 in.
Jan 2012	- 8.21 in.
Jan 1995	- 32.06 in.

## RECREATION NEWS

The Ross Recreation Department welcomes the addition of Gretchen Castets to the staff. Gretchen will serve as our Recreation Clerk assisting with registrations and customer service. Gretchen has previously worked as a preschool teacher and summer camp counselor for the Town of San Anselmo.



Gretchen Castets

Our spring lacrosse program for boys and girls, grades 1 through 4, includes weekday instructional sessions beginning in early April. Games will be schedule on Saturdays beginning late April. Sign up for this exciting sport, which is growing fast in the West! Registration for spring programs will begin on March 1.



The spring program preview will be available on the Ross Recreation website in the middle of February. New programs include instruction classes in lacrosse for kindergarten age children, fencing instruction for middle school students, an advanced mountain biking clinic and a robotics club offered through Cyber Garage.



Visit our website at: [www.rossrecreation.org](http://www.rossrecreation.org)

# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## FEBRUARY 2017

Feb 6	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Feb 9	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Feb 15	9:00	am	Annual Strategic Council Workshop, Marin Art & Garden Center Studio
Feb 20	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Presidents Day
Feb 28	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

## MARCH 2017

Mar 6	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 9	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 14	8:30	am	Recreation Advisory Committee, Recreation Community Room
Mar 28	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

## APRIL 2017

Apr 3	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Apr 6*	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall <i>*note date change</i>
Apr 25	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

## 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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