

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Katie Hoertkorn

Despite the predictions from the National Weather service and local meteorologists, we were most fortunate over the weekend - the creek did not overflow its banks, and there was no flooding! But whatever was going to happen, under the direction of our Town Manager, Joe Chinn, we were truly prepared. Joe, Public Works Director Rich Simonitch, Public Works Maintenance Worker Anthony Alcozer, Police Chief Masterson and the Police officers, the firefighters, and Linda Lopez spent the weekend on duty, with Anthony and Chief Masterson sleeping at the Town offices. Rich and Anthony monitored drainage issues, both for the Town and private property owners. While our neighboring towns ran out of sand, we had adequate sand, thanks specifically to

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Winter Storms & Flood Preparedness



Fish Ladder at Corte Madera Creek, January 10, 2017

The recent rains have taught us one thing: you really can't predict what Mother Nature is going to do. Three storms over the last several weeks have forecasted the real possibility of the Corte Madera Creek (which runs through Ross) overflowing its banks. Two of the storms came dangerously close to overflowing, but at the eleventh hour the rains eased, and the creek receded. With the last storm, the creek did crest on parts of Sir Francis Drake, but overall we were very lucky. The recent storms have given the Town good practice runs on our emergency preparedness. What are we doing right and what can we improve on. Preparing for storms is a partnership between the Town and residents. It is important that property owners maintain all watercourses and drainageways that pass over, under, and in many cases around their private property, including the culvert under your driveway and walkway. Please keep these facilities clean and free of debris that can obstruct the natural flow of water. Also, inspect your trees, dead or dying trees fall during storms and routinely take down power lines, damage property, block roadways, and sometimes injure people. If you need a tree removed, please come down to Town Hall and get a tree removal permit. We were fortunate the last series of storms not to have any major power outages, which were common in communities all around us.

Here are some actions/steps residents can take to prepare themselves for a flood emergency:

Here are some actions/steps residents can take to prepare themselves for a flood emergency:

- 1) Subscribe to the Town's Email list to stay informed of Town emergency notifications. We do not share your email address with anyone. [Click here to join.](#)
- 2) Register your phone with "Alert Marin" to receive emergency phone notifications sent from the County of Marin. [Click here to register.](#)
- 3) Make an emergency plan for you and your family.



Corte Madera Creek at 4 Sylvan Lane, December 15, 2016

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Anthony's actions. Additionally the Police continuously re-stocked the sand bags at Natalie Coffin Greene Park. Truly Measure K in action!

This past Tuesday night we came even closer to flooding. While the water went over on parts of Sir Francis Drake, and some of the streets were flooded, overall we escaped a serious situation, and once again Town staff, Public Works and the Police were out in full force.



Flood control is a partnership between the Town and all of the residents. We need you to make sure that your drainage ditches and culverts are cleared regularly and remain free flowing. We also need you to keep your trees pruned, eliminating dead wood, as well as clearing any dead trees. PG&E has been very active trimming trees away from power lines all season long. Importantly, no trees fell during these two storms that knocked out electrical service or closed or blocked a roadway.

I also want to recognize everyone who attended or wrote regarding December's meeting concerning the Ross Commons, employee housing and park issues. While it can be emotional, it is gratifying that we are a full throated democracy, and I think the belief that we all have a voice in the Town's future is one of the major reasons Measure K had such overwhelming support. I hope that we continue to have diverse comments on the important issues that come before Council.

Wishing you all a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year! ■

Winter Storms & Flood Preparedness - continued from page 1

- 4) Prepare an emergency supply kit. Do you have supplies to sustain you for 72 hours?
- 5) Have an evacuation plan in place. Depending on the emergency, you may have to evacuate to a safe location. Where will you go and what route will you follow?

The [Emergency Preparedness Guide](#) available on the Town's website, offers useful checklists, information on what to do in an emergency and resources to guide you through it.



Corte Madera Creek Gage behind Town Hall
December 15, 2016

Flood Warning Siren

The [Corte Madera Creek level](#) in Ross is monitored closely during heavy rainfall. The Town works in conjunction with the Towns of San Anselmo and Fairfax to sound the siren when there is imminent danger of the creek overflowing its banks. When the siren is sounded, residents and merchants are advised to proceed immediately to higher ground, and to stay away from the creek during this time as it can be very dangerous.

Safety Tips

- Do not walk or drive through flood waters. Water can be deeper than it appears and water levels rise quickly.
- Stay away from moving water. Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and 2 feet of water can sweep your vehicle away.
- If your home is flooded, turn the electricity off until emergency officials tell you it is safe to turn it on.
- Stay away from downed power lines and report to PG&E immediately.
- Stay alert and listen to your local radio or television for weather report updates.

The Town's website contains numerous resources to assist you in preparing for an emergency. We want everyone to be safe and prepared for an emergency.

PLANNING RESULTS

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

Address: 205 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: Lagunitas Country Club
Council Action: Approved with modifications
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-1 (Robbins opposed, Kuhl recused)

Address: 43 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
Council Action: Continued

Address: 39 Winship Avenue
Applicant: Elizabeth & Stephen Sutro
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0 (Brekhus/Hoertkorn recused)

Reminder from the Ross Post Office



The Ross Postmaster would like to remind residents of the following regarding mail:

- 1) All outgoing mail should always have a PO Box listed on it; it's fine to also list the street address, but you must have the PO Box in the address.
- 2) For mail that requires a physical address as well as packages, use the following format:
 Name
 123 Elm Street/#9345
 Ross, CA 94957

 In this example the 9345 is the PO Box number.
- 3) Help the Post Office out and break down cardboard boxes before putting them in the bin, so the bins can accept more discarded mail.

Marin Sanitary 2017 Rates



The Council approved the Marin Sanitary rate increase of 5.71% for 2017.

The Town is part of a franchisor's group comprised of San Rafael, Larkspur, portions of Marin County and the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District. This group in turn retains an independent consulting firm to review the rate package submitted annually by Marin Sanitary Service (MSS). This year, HF&H Consultants, LLC has determined a 5.71% rate increase is appropriate for the Town to compensate MSS for its costs to provide refuse and related services based on the agreed to methodology used in our contract.

Rate Adjustment Factor Components 2017 Component Percentages

Wages	1.09%
Benefits (including workers comp)	(0.13%)
Fuel and oil	0.70%
Disposal	1.03%
Depreciation and interest	1.63%
Maintenance	0.11%
Other operating costs ⁽¹⁾	<u>0.40%</u>
Subtotal Operations	4.83%
Revenue shortfall net of franchise fees	<u>0.88%</u>
Total Rate Adjustment	5.71%

⁽¹⁾ Includes profit and general & administrative costs (e.g., public education, customer service, etc.)

The cost of a 32 gallon residential landfill cart would be increased approximately \$1.85 per month, from \$32.37 to \$34.22. The average for all of Marin is \$35.46 and the Bay Area average is \$34.15.

While perhaps the original purpose of refuse service had to do with public health and safety around sanitation, it is increasingly emphasizing making progress on waste reduction and climate change goals. The State of California has adopted several pieces of legislation mandating significant reductions of waste to landfill. Marin County has a current diversion rate of 74%. MSS and other organizations are putting considerable time and effort into getting organics out of the landfill. The Commercial Food to Energy (F2E) program and new statewide legislation, AB1826, which mandates commercial composting are expected to increase the diversion rate.



Bolinas Avenue Drainage Project



Bolinas Avenue December 15, 2016

The Council authorized the Town Manager to execute an agreement with the Town of San Anselmo to share consultant fees and project oversight associated

with the Bolinas Avenue drainage improvement project plan. Over the past several years the drainage issues on Bolinas Avenue have been the focus of independent hydrological evaluations by consultants working under contract by both the Towns of Ross and San Anselmo. The desire now is to proceed with a plan of action to design adequate drainage facilities within Bolinas Avenue to relieve "nuisance" flooding. Following the drainage design being complete, it is the intent to put it out to bid as soon as possible so that much needed pavement rehabilitation for Bolinas Avenue can occur immediately after the storm drain undergrounding is completed.

The Town of San Anselmo will act as lead agency for the drainage improvements, and the scope of work will be divided into 2 phases.

Good Neighbor Reminder

Trash Day



The Town's Municipal Code requires that all garbage cans/recycling containers be stored out of public view except on trash pick-up day. Please promptly remove your trash containers from the street after garbage pick-up.

Ross Municipal Code Section 6.12.140, states "No refuse and/or recyclable materials receptacle other than those owned or rented by the town shall be placed or kept in or on any public street, sidewalk, footpath, or any public place whatsoever, but shall be maintained on the premises, out of public view, except as may be provided for removing and emptying by the authorized refuse and recycling agent on the day(s) and in the location designated for collection."

Thank you for doing your part.

RECREATION NEWS

David Hughes has joined the Ross Preschool staff and is assisting in curriculum development, marketing and administration. David is the founder of Camp Doodles and a former elementary school principal. David holds a Masters degree in Education and a Teaching Credential from Dominican University. David grew up in Ross, attending Ross School through 3rd grade.



David Hughes

Ross Recreation welcomes David to the Ross Preschool team.

Winter Programs

Registration is open for winter programs. The **Cyber Garage** provides instruction in building your own computer. **Academic Chess** provides instruction in building your own ripple chessboard. **Rainbow Chefs** returns with an around the world themed cooking program. These programs are offered at Ross School during after-school hours.

Ski Week is February 20 through 24 and Ross Recreation is offering two weeklong programs. **Gone Fishin'** will visit local fishing spots and **Holly's Hoppin'** winter camp will be based at the Ross Recreation Community Room, located at Ross School.

Winter program registration is ongoing. Visit us at www.rossrecreation.org for program and registration information.

Winter 2017 Event for Middle School students:

Ski Trip to Sierra @ Tahoe!



6-8th Graders!

Join us for a fun-filled day on the slopes!

Ross Recreation is offering an ALL - INCLUSIVE day trip to Sierra At Tahoe!

Sunday January 22nd, 2017

\$165 per person

includes: bus ride, lift ticket, (lessons and rentals available for extra fee) breakfast, lunch, dinner, Aprés ski party with snacks and music and a movie on the way home.

Don't miss out!

register online: www.rossrecreation.org

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2017

Jan 2	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for New Year's Day
Jan 9	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 10	8:30	am	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Recreation Community Room
Jan 12	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 16	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Jan 24	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

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 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 28	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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Visit us at www.townofross.org



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