

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 11 | Issue 3 | March 2017

Mayor's Corner



Katie Hoertkorn

The Town Council and staff had their annual Strategic Workshop on February 15. We made great progress on a number of issues as we move forward with specific projects, including the five year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and the budget. Our updated and revised Town Goals are:

- Sustain financial responsibility and stability
- Enhance effectiveness and efficiency of delivery of services
- Maintain a safe community
- Foster and strengthen community involvement
- Improve infrastructure and facilities
- Provide transparency and consistency in government

At the workshop, we discussed priorities

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Underground Utility Improvements

It is going to be a very busy year related to underground utility upgrades and improvements within our public and private streets. Ross Valley Sanitary District (RVSD) and Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) have extensive construction and repair plans, and PG&E is also planning some gas main replacements later this year.



RVSD's Contractor at work on Southwood Avenue on March 6, 2017

RVSD is starting a Gravity Sewer Rehabilitation Project this week that will rehabilitate existing sewer pipelines under many of our streets. The improvements are needed to rehabilitate and repair the sanitary sewer collection system to reduce the potential for spills and to reduce the amount of groundwater entering the collection system. The District has entered into a contract with Ranger Pipelines to complete the work. Most of the work involves trenchless technology (pipe-bursting and lining, etc.) but there will be some open trenching and some traffic delays should be anticipated during construction.

RVSD Locations: Work is planned on the following streets: Madera Ave, Wellington Ave, El Camino Bueno, Hillgirt Drive, Southwood Ave, Glenwood Ave, Lagunitas Road, Ames Ave, Upper Ames Ave, Allen Ave, De Witt Drive, Willow Ave, Bridge Road, Circle Drive, Ivy Drive, Fernhill Ave, Park Drive, Upper Road, Oak Way, Winship Ave, Sunnyside Way, Baywood Ave, Garden Road, Woodland Rd, Chestnut Ave, Armsby Cir, and Quail Ridge.

In addition, RVSD will be rehabilitating portions of the existing sewer trunk line running parallel to and within Shady Lane. This is mainly a trenchless rehabilitation project but there will still be minor traffic delays while the contractor is on site. We will provide more information about this project when we receive it.

MMWD will be starting a Fire Flow Improvement project that will replace existing water main pipelines. This project is part of the ongoing Fire Flow Improvement Program that is voter and fire chief approved. A contractor has not yet been selected for this project.

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for fiscal 2017-18. Some of next year's projects to be completed include: •Facilities Master Plan development and discussions for Town facilities; •Pavement rehabilitation and drainage improvements for Bolinas Avenue; •Drainage improvements in a couple other locations to assist with nuisance flooding; •Design plan for Three Bear Hut and Natalie Coffin Greene Park; •Implementing new Planning and Building permit tracking software; •Develop detailed Design Guidelines and requirements; •Discuss and possibly revise Downtown zoning; and •Hillside Lot Ordinance amendment (to name a few).

We welcome any input you may have on both the goals and priorities; your input will help create and maintain the strength of Ross. While we believe that the Town is on a solid path forward, there is always room for improvement. Your involvement is key to how Ross continues to evolve. Certainly one of our hallmarks is community participation, which is why we feel "foster and strengthen community involvement " is such an important goal. As an example one of our community groups is the Leadership Council, which meets quarterly at Ross school. Many Town organizations are represented, and the collaboration has been phenomenal. The group is working on a new Community Calendar, which we are excited to see come to fruition. Another lovely community event coming up is the Spring Fling on April 1st sponsored by the Ross Auxillary. This is such a fun event, and we hope you will participate.

The Town sent out a survey on short term rentals. We have received 160+ responses, but we very much want to hear from everyone. If you have not received a survey please contact Heidi Scoble at hscoble@townofross.org to have one sent to you.

And we are at last at the end of our very rainy winter! A number of you have asked if the new Lagunitas Bridge made a difference. Yes, it did!! Thanks to the wider and higher span, water did not back up. We had three different days where the Town most likely would have flooded with the old bridge. While we had some flooding of yards and streets, no homes flooded that we know of! So yay for the new bridge! ■

Utility Improvements - continued from page 1

MMWD Locations: Work is planned on the following streets: Southwood Ave, Crest Ave, Baywood Ave, Canyon Rd, Monte Alegre Rd, Pomeroy Rd, & Newell.

Schedules: RVSD has begun the project in March 2017 beginning on Southwood Avenue, and other street work will continue through early February 2018, although most of the work that doesn't directly conflict with school activities is scheduled for April-June. MMWD is tentatively scheduled to begin work sometime in May 2017 and continue through the end of 2017. Work at each location will typically be a two-four week duration. Construction work will be between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm on weekdays and not on any holidays. Construction work in immediate school areas will either occur when school is not in session, or will be limited to working hours between 9 am and 3 pm. Work that occurs by both MMWD and RVSD on the same street will be coordinated so that final pavement restoration will occur after both Districts have completed their work. Pavement restoration on Town-maintained streets for the RVSD open trench work will be a full-width asphalt slurry. Pavement restoration limits for other locations will be determined by Public Works on a case by case basis. ■

Third Grade Students Visit Town Hall

Three Ross School third grade classes received a history and civics lesson when they visited Ross Town Hall on March 7th. Beginning their tour in the Council Chambers, they learned how the Town operates, how decisions are made, and what services are provided. Town staff was on hand to provide information on their departments and to answer questions. The tour concluded with a visit with Police and Fire.



PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the March Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the [March 9th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be available on this page after adoption by the Council at the April 6th Council meeting.

Address: 43 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

Applicant: James & Kathy Meyer

Council Action: Approved

Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-1 (Robbins opposed, Hoertkorn absent)

Address: 45 Bolinas Avenue

Applicant: Matt & Collin Shewey

Council Action: Approved

Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0 (Russell recused, Hoertkorn absent)

UP THE CREEK



The Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District hosted a public meeting on February 16th, to discuss the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Ross Valley Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Program (Program). The purpose of the meeting was to elicit comments from the public early on in the environmental review process regarding the proposed Program to reduce flood risk. The Program under consideration proposes several flood reduction measures designed to reduce flood risk. In response to the meeting, the Town provided a letter to the District requesting the EIR to include information regarding specific details of the Program, such as detailed descriptions regarding creek and stream channel improvements, a description of the cumulative downstream impacts associated with different program phasing, and detailed information regarding the Phoenix Lake Dam being used as a detention basin.

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For more information on the EIR process, timing of the completion, and opportunities to provide public comment and input, please visit the County's website (<http://www.marinwatersheds.org/rossvalleywatershed-org/>), or contact Tonya Redfield, Capital Planning and Project Manager, Department of Public Works, at 415 473-2941, or via email at tredfield@marincounty.org.

PUBLIC SAFETY



Police Body Cameras Going Live

The Ross Police Department is implementing the use of Body Worn Cameras for our officers in the field. Body Worn Cameras are in use in most law enforcement agencies in Marin County as well as other areas in the country. You can expect to see our officers wearing these devices in the coming weeks.



It is the policy of the Ross Police Department that all sworn personnel will effectively and responsibly utilize all department provided audio/video recording technology as a tool to collect evidence, as a safeguard for the officer and the Department against false claims of misconduct and to ensure that all personnel are performing their duties to the highest standards of professional integrity.

The cameras will be activated in situations that are enforcement related. The officer may not be activating the cameras at times that are not enforcement related, such as simple greetings.

The Police Department will maintain the video data for one year, longer when it is evidence in a criminal matter.

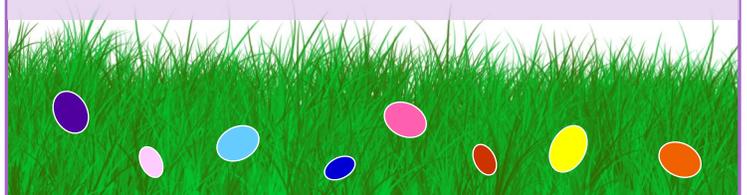
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SPRING FLING - APRIL 1

Annual Spring Fling
Saturday, April 1st, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
Ross School Playground

Grab your Easter baskets and join the Easter egg hunt, enjoy cupcake decorating, live music, the Bubbleman and more!

Hosted by the Ross Auxiliary





Zero Waste Marin—Tips for Reducing Waste

Zero Waste Marin would like to pass along a few tips to help Marin County residents reduce waste.

- **Reusable Containers:** Instead of plastic or paper bags, use reusable containers to pack your family's food and beverages. Whether you are going for a hike on Mt. Tam, heading to the park for the afternoon or packing a school lunch, reusable containers are the best way to hold snacks for the trip.
- **Cloth Napkins:** Swap paper towels for cloth napkins and dishcloths both at home and in packed lunches. Cloth napkins are easy to clean and can be reused for years, and you will save money on paper towels.



- **BYO Bag:** Add a reminder to bring your own reusable shopping bag to your shopping list. Simple actions like this help keep waste out of our landfills. Remember to keep a reusable shopping bag in your car for any unplanned trips.

- **“Compostable” Plastics:** Even though they claim to be biodegradable and compostable, vegetable-based “compostable” utensils, cups and bags cannot be placed in the Green Cart in Marin County (or in Ross). Please put them in the landfill cart. Instead, use firmware that can be washed and reused.

Spring is a great time of year for us all to embrace new waste reduction habits at home. Let's continue to work together to keep Marin County beautiful and thriving. Zero Waste Marin works with cities and towns throughout Marin County to educate residents

about reducing the amount of waste that goes into our local landfills. For more information, visit zerowastemarin.org.

RECREATION NEWS

Ross Commons field has re-opened and will continue as the main site for our youth sports programs including Lacrosse this Spring. The Ross Recreation Department has coordinated maintenance improvements for the fields to improve the quality of the turf. Recent rains have benefited the turf, which had been stressed during the drought.

Opening Day for Ross Valley Little League is scheduled for Saturday, March 11. The opening Day parade will begin at Ross Commons at 8:45 a.m. Come on out and enjoy the pageantry of Little League baseball.



Spring registration began on March 1st. New offerings such as fencing compliment our ongoing youth sports instruction programs in Lacrosse, Tennis, T-Ball and more! New instructional classes include Iron Chef challenge and Robotics club at Ross School.



Visit our website at: www.rossrecreation.org

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2017

Mar 6	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 9	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 11	8:45	am	Little League Opening Day Parade, Ross Common
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 1	10:00	am	Annual Spring Fling, Ross School Playground <i>(see page 4 for details)</i>
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

MAY 2017

May 4	9:00	am	Special Council Meeting—Annual Budget Workshop, Ross Town Hall
May 8	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
May 11	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
May 23	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
May 29	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Memorial Day

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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