

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Robbins, MD
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.

Spring has finally arrived, with warm, sunny weather and numerous special events. The 35th annual Margie Burke speech tournament was held at Ross School on April 29; nearly 200 middle school students from around the county competed in categories including dramatic interpretation and original prose and poetry. Also on that day, high school students at Branson celebrated their annual festival of the arts. Upcoming events include the Ross Fun Run on Saturday May 13; proceeds benefit the Marin County School Volunteers.

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Winship Bridge Replacement Project

The bridge over San Anselmo Creek at Winship Avenue has been serving the residents of Winship Park neighborhood since the mid 20's when it was constructed to provide better access from the main highway (now Sir Francis Drake Boulevard) to the new homes sprouting up on the hillsides along



Winship Avenue, Wellington Avenue and Garden Road. Winship Park was subdivided in 1912 and development of single family homes began soon after. Built 15 years after the other 5 Ross bridges, the double arched, earth-filled structure, though quaint and unique in its own way, has been identified as structurally and geometrically deficient, as well as a significant barrier to heavy flows in the creek.

The new bridge design selected as a replacement for the existing one will be more architecturally similar to the other bridges in Ross, provide safer vehicular and pedestrian access and will be in compliance with the regional Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program. The Town Council, staff, and professional consultants have worked together with the local community to come up with a design that addresses many of the concerns raised with earlier concepts. There will be more opportunities for public review and comment as the project enters the environmental compliance phase, but the selection of a final design and alignment is a major step forward for the long overdue project. 100% funding for the bridge replacement project is provided by the Federal Bridge Replacement Program and State bridge toll credits.

The Town Council approved authorizing the design consultants to proceed with the preparation of the environmental documentation and final design along the existing roadway alignment parallel to the existing right of way.

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A spring event for the Town of Ross is its annual budget workshop, held this year on May 4. Council members spent over five hours with the Town Manager and Town staff members reviewing the Town's expenditures during the last fiscal year, and reviewing the programs and projects to be considered for the upcoming fiscal year. Council members also reviewed the Town's revenue sources. The proposed budget for 2017-2018, which will be adopted at the June 8 meeting, is a balanced budget with no deficit spending. The Town continues to make additional payments to CalPERS to pay down its obligation for retiree benefits; these early payments save the town hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest payments.



One of the items included in the upcoming budget is a special data tracking program that will allow the Building, Planning and Public Works Departments to access and track the numerous documents and sign-offs that are part of a building project. This will help Town staff process projects more efficiently and effectively.

Save the date: Ross Recreation will be hosting the annual Fourth of July parade and picnic on Ross Common on Tuesday July 4th. Information about how to sign up for the parade will be available next month. We would love to see more participation in this wonderful Ross event. ■

Farm Stand Returns to Ross



The Marin Community Farm Stand (MCFS) began its third year on the Ross Common on Thursday, May 4th. The seasonal farmers market

runs every Thursday, from 11:30 am to 7:30 pm through October.

The MCFS has been in Marin County since 2003, and represents the cooperative efforts of over 20 Marin Organic Farms from the communities of Bolinas, Inverness, Lagunitas, Nicasio, Point Reyes, San Anselmo and Tomales. They operate a permanent market in West Marin in Forest Knolls Thursday thru Monday.

The Farm Stand features a wide selection of seasonal organic fruit and vegetables, fresh meat and fish, desserts, breads, and many other items from local artisans. To sign up for their weekly e-newsletter, go to www.communityfarmstands.com.

Post Office Lease Renewed

The Council authorized the Town Manager to execute the Lease Amendment and related documents for the lease extension of the Town's Post Office site with the US Postal Service (USPS). The two parties reached a mutually satisfactory agreement on a lease amendment that provides the lease terms for the renewal period of August 1, 2018 through July 31, 2023. The terms for the USPS lease amendment include:

- Annual rent of \$121,029 beginning August 1, 2018, which is an 8% increase from the \$112,063 rental rate the Town will receive beginning August 1, 2017.
- Annual rent will have 3.5% annual increases in years 2 through 5.



Assuming the full lease term, the Town will realize \$649,011 in lease income before the brokerage commission of 3% over the five year extension term. The USPS has the right to terminate the Lease upon 120 day written notice.

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the May Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the [May 11th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be available on this page after adoption by the Council at the June 8th Council meeting.

Address: 55 Baywood
Applicant: Stephen Andrew & Kimberly Koza
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-0

Address: 4 Chestnut Avenue
Applicant: Kristin & Jim Robillard
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-1 (Kuhl recused)

Address: 16 Ross Common
Owner: Richard & Dorothy Breiner,
Applicants: Matt Neemer & Nick Mettler
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-0

Address: 3 Circle Drive
Applicant: Peter Nelson
Council Action: *Continued to June Meeting*

Address: 179 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: Gardenia L.P.
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-1-0 (Brekhus opposed)

Ross Historical Society/Moya Library *Speaker Series*

L. Martin Griffin, MD
“The Doctor with Mud on His Shoes”

Friday, June 2, 2017, at 11:00 a.m.
Livermore Pavilion

Marin Art & Garden Center
Presentation only: \$10.00 at door
Luncheon tickets: \$45.00 - Reserve by 5/30/17
to Moya-RHS, PO Box 437, Ross, CA 94957
For info go to www.moya-rhs.org/



Pixie Park Renovations Planned

Pixie Park, located at the northeastern corner of the Marin Art and Garden Center, will soon get a much needed facelift.

The volunteer Pixie Parents who manage the historic, members-only park for children ages 6 and younger, have launched a \$400,000 fundraiser to kick off the first of three phases of the project. The Pixie Park planned improvements include:



- Restore the Wooden Train, Wisteria Arbor and Nook, and re-build a Mid-Century Modern Playhouse.
- Stabilize the eroding hillside with new concrete retaining walls, a natural stone and log scramble play area, a custom slide, and a rope pull.
- Build a new seating area at the top of the hill to enjoy the Mt Tam views.
- Replace asphalt paving in Main Plaza with colored concrete paving.
- Create an ADA-accessible, push-toy friendly ramp from the upper gate to the Main Plaza.
- Throughout the park, replace wood retaining walls and stairs with concrete retaining walls, concrete stairs and natural logs and boulders.
- Improve storm water drainage by adding area drains and permeable paving.
- Provide new benches, picnic tables, and restore the artful Livermore drinking fountain.
- Plant trees to provide shady play places.

Pixie Park was founded in 1952 by Mill Valley resident Elizabeth Terwilliger and the American Association of University Women (AAUW). It was started as a safe place to play for the children of volunteers who were working at the Marin Art and Garden Center. Within a year 30 families were using it, and through donations constructed the first buildings: the Pavilion and an original playhouse.

Today, the nonprofit Pixie has some 160 members from all over Marin and is open to anyone who wishes to join. For more information about the park and the renovation plans go pixiepark.org.



Update on Upcoming Public Works Projects

Now that spring is here and the days are getting longer and warmer, the annual construction season cannot be far behind. This summer is shaping up to be a busy construction season in our Town and we are asking the citizens of Ross ahead of time to please be patient, safe and aware! Most of us here in Ross experience every day the disruptions caused by construction vehicle congestion, dust and noise. Many of you are already aware of the pipeline work in the roadways being done by Ross Valley Sanitary District (RVSD), Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD), and Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E).

In addition to this, there are a number of Public Works projects that will be starting very soon. These public improvement projects include drainage improvements on Allen Avenue/Allen Lane and Brookwood Lane, followed by full



In need of TLC - Brookwood Lane

pavement reconstruction on Brookwood Lane and Redwood Drive. A sidewalk extension project at the Laurel Grove/Sir Francis Drake intersection will be commencing before the end of this month.



Bike Racks at Ross Post Office

Parts of Ross Common and Poplar Drive have been identified as needing some extensive spot repairs as well, although full pavement rehabilitation on these streets are

still several years away. Public Works staff recently installed a new bike rack and informational Kiosk at the Post Office that were donated by the Ross Property Owners Association, and other smaller public drainage and pavement repair projects have been identified throughout the town which we will get to in the coming year.

RECREATION NEWS

Summer program registration is open and camps are filling fast. This summer Ross Recreation will offer camps and programs in August prior to the new school year. These programs include a basketball clinic with former Cal Women's coach Caren Horstmeyer, lacrosse camp with Drew Virk, former Stanford coach, fishing camp, Holly Hoppin and carpentry for kids. The summer brochure can be downloaded at www.rossrecreation.org.



The Ross Rec lacrosse program began games on Saturday May 5 on Ross Common. The program features instruction for boys and girls grades 1st through 3rd on weekdays and conducts

games on Saturdays. Games will continue on Saturdays through June 3rd.



Preparations are underway for the annual Town of Ross Fourth of July celebration. A parade followed by food, games and entertainment on Ross Common will be hosted by Ross Recreation. If you are interested in participating in this year's parade please send a email to rossrec@rossrecreation.org.



ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 24	8:00	am	Special Council Meeting, Town Hall
May 29	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Memorial Day

JUNE 2017

Jun 5	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Jun 8	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Jun 27	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

JULY 2017

Jul 4	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Independence Day
Jul 4	11:00	am	Annual Ross 4th of July Parade and Picnic, Ross Common
Jul 10	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Jul 13	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Jul 25	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

RECURRING EVENTS

Thursdays, May - 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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