

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 18 | Issue 7 | July 2024

Mayor's Corner



Mayor Bill Kircher

Last week Ross celebrated the Fourth of July with its annual parade and picnic on the Common on a warm day under clear and sunny skies. The parade has been described as a one-of-a-kind event, and it has also been

said that Ross may have the largest Independence Day celebration in the country on a per capita basis. Be that as it may, there certainly was no shortage of enthusiasm. The parade included the Ross Police Department and Ross Valley Fire, Council Members, floats of all shapes and sizes, vintage cars, Uncle Sam, and lots of other participants from Ross and surrounding areas. After a triumphant finish at the Ross common, we were treated to an afternoon of games and entertainment, including the much anticipated Second Annual Patriotic Pooch dog contest, as we enjoyed a picnic under the trees on the Common. Entertainment included our own Shady Ladies chorus, the Top Shelf Classics band, and the Marin Golden Gate Barbershop Quartet. I'm sure I speak for the entire Council in thanking all the participants, our Public Works

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PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUT-OFFS

What is a Public Safety Power Shutoff?

Severe weather, such as high winds, can cause trees or debris to damage equipment. If there is dry vegetation, this could lead to a wildfire. That's why PG&E may need to turn power off to keep you safe. This temporary outage is called a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS).

PG&E plans a PSPS when severe weather may put you at risk of wildfires:

Low humidity

Forecasted high winds

Dry material on the ground

Vegetation near powerlines

Red Flag Warning from the National Weather Service

Real-time observations from weather experts and ground crews

[Learn about weather monitoring](#)

High wildfire risk areas

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has sorted regions according to their wildfire risk.

Homes and businesses in Tiers 2 and 3 wildfire risk areas are more likely to experience a PSPS.

Tier 2: An area where there is an elevated risk of wildfire.

Tier 3: An area where there is an extreme risk of wildfire.

[Learn more about high fire-threat areas from the CPUC map.](#)

PSPS alerts

PG&E knows power outages are disruptive. We want to help you prepare.

PG&E does their best to alert you before a PSPS via email, phone call and/or text.

They'll send you PSPS alerts as early as possible, both day and night, as needed. This is a requirement from the California Public Utilities Commission. If you are a PG&E account holder, you do not need to sign up to receive PSPS alerts.

Note: [Weather forecasts can change](#). This could shift the shutoff timing or the number of affected customers. Because of this, in some cases PG&E may not send the first alert until the same day your power is shut off.

Click to sign up: [Get notified if there is a potential PSPS in your area.](#)



Department, and especially the Ross Recreation Department for its months-long effort in planning and organizing the parade and celebration.

In addition to our parade and celebration, July also marks the beginning of our new fiscal year, which runs from July 1 of 2024 through June 30 of 2025. Thanks to sound and prudent fiscal management, Ross begins the year on a solid footing. We have sufficient resources to fund our operations and continue local infrastructure projects.



The one major issue still to be addressed at some future point in time, however, is funding for replacement of our aging public safety and administration buildings. We are presently awaiting a commitment from the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority to continue to station paramedics in our new buildings before we proceed to the next step, which is detailed architectural and other planning. Although we have already set aside a considerable sum to pay for the project, we will need to finance the balance of the project cost, and this will in turn require voter approval.



In the meantime, I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer and be sure to save the date for our next Town events, Live on the Common on September 6, and the annual Town Dinner on the Common September 27.

~~Mayor Bill Kircher

The Marin Wildfire Chipper Day Program is back for 2024!

The Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority is proud to sponsor the [Chipping Program](#)! The program provides for the curbside pickup, chipping, and disposal of vegetation material from residential properties.

Make a reservation to secure your pickup. It is encouraged that you secure your reservation **PRIOR TO** constructing your pile. Signups must be made **NO LATER THAN** the Friday before an upcoming event to guarantee a spot on the pickup list.

Program Rules

Material in excess of **8" in diameter** cannot be chipped. **Your pile must not exceed 20 feet x 4 feet x 4 feet.** Piles with unpermitted items or any portion of a pile greater than 20x4x4 feet may be left behind and will become the resident's responsibility to remove. Your pile must be within 5' of a place where the truck can access the pile and turn around on a road. Do not place piles where they are blocking a roadway, driveway, or pedestrian path or within 10 feet of a utility pole or fire hydrant.

Please do not bag or tie up your vegetation. Lay all vegetation in your pile the same way with the base of the branch or plant facing toward the street (so that it can be easily picked up and placed in the chipper) at the curb by **8am Monday morning or 8am Wednesday morning** depending on what half of the week your event is scheduled for. Preferably piles should be on the uphill side of the drive or road if there is a slope. Piles may not be placed behind fences, closed gates or other similar objects.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to watch a video on how to prepare your chipper pile.

Please note: only ONE PILE PER RESERVATION is permitted.



**MARIN WILDFIRE
PREVENTION AUTHORITY**

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the June 13, 2024 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's June 13 website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted on this page after adoption by the Council.

Address: 34 Poplar Avenue

Applicant: Tristan Warren Architect

Council Action: Approved

Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-2 (Dowling recused; Salter absent)

Address: 118 Winding Way

Applicant: Ron Sutton

Council Action: Approved

Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Salter absent)

Marin County Green Business Program

Certified Green Businesses take steps to reduce the environmental impacts of their operations. Since 2002, the Marin Green Business Program has worked with over 350 Marin businesses to save energy, conserve water, prevent pollution, and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills.

You can support Certified Green Businesses near you by using the statewide [Green Business Directory](#). Our community has Certified Green food service businesses, event spaces, commercial printers, retail and grocery stores, as well as real estate, legal, and financial service business and many more. By choosing a business from the directory, you can be sure you're supporting a business that shares your environmental values.

The program is free for Marin businesses. After registering with the program, businesses receive a checklist of requirements that are specific to their industry. Program staff will provide guidance and technical assistance to help a business meet program requirements. Learn more at <https://www.marincounty.gov/departments/cda/sustainability/businesses/green-business-program>



Fire-Smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners



July: Water Wise Strategies

Maintaining healthy plants through the summer is a fire-smart strategy. Well-hydrated plants have been found to be more resistant to embers and ignitions. Use these important fire-smart & water-wise landscaping strategies:

- Help your soil maintain moisture by using compost and appropriate fire-smart mulches outside of Zone 0.
- Learn how much water your plants need and give them the right amount. This will help keep your plants healthy and happy.
- Water your plants in the early morning, applying water to the base of the plant within its dripline.
- OVER IRRIGATION IS COMMON. Consider using flow meters, soaker hoses, drip irrigation, and irrigation controllers for more efficient administration and monitoring.
- Use fertilizers sparingly. They make plants grow quickly and require more water to support new growth.
- Avoid planting new plants during the hot summer months. They need more water to establish themselves and thrive.
- Remove invasive plants and weeds which take water from other plants.
- Reduce the size of your thirsty lawn.
- On days with Red Flag warnings, avoid changing your irrigation schedule or using more water. Using excessive water for irrigation reduces the water available to our fire personnel.

Additional learning resources:

Irrigation: <http://ucanr.edu/ucmarinmgirrigation>

Irrigation Options: https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/BASICS/IRRIGATION_911/Types_of_Irrigation_Systems/

Chipper Days are here!

Make a reservation to get rid of garden debris by going to <https://www.chipperday.com/marin>

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPING, VISIT <https://ucanr.edu/ucmarinmgfiresmart>.



AGE-FRIENDLY ROSS

DISPOSING OF OLD DRUGS

Old and excess drugs are dangerous and should not be left unattended or flushed down the toilet! But they can be dropped off at the Ross Police Department (RPD).

Remove the drugs from their containers and place them in a plastic bag and seal the bag.

Drop the bag off at the RPD Monday-Friday, 9am to 4pm. Ring the bell, and the RPD staff will buzz you in and help you.



SUMMER CAMPS

Fun for EVERYone!

Camps Begin
June 17th!

Higgins Tennis Camp
Top Gun Sports
Tinker Tech Coding
Art Camp
And More!



Register Today!

WWW.ROSSRECREATION.ORG / 415-453-6020

Summer Concert Series

Thursday nights
this summer



Live music
Food, drinks, fun!

Click [here](#) for
more information

Thursdays, June 27–August 29
(Except July 4)
5–7pm



Marin
Art and
Garden
Center

In a bit of good news, County Jail Inmate #5468106, the hotdog pilfering grand-dog of Council Member Elizabeth Robbins apprehended at the 2023 July 4th celebration, was recently paroled and is adjusting well to life as a free hound, surrounded by his loving family and Ross' finest!!





ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2024

- July 15 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
- July 16 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Cancelled)

AUGUST 2024

- Aug 8 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Aug 20 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

SEPTEMBER 2024

- Sep 6 4:30 pm Live on the Common
- Sep 9 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
- Sep 12 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Sep 17 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Sep 27 5:30 pm Ross Town Dinner

OCTOBER 2024

- Oct 7 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
- Oct 10 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Oct 15 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Oct 18 4:30 pm Live on the Common

NOVEMBER 2024

- Nov 4 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
- Nov 11 All Day Veteran's Day Holiday—Town Offices Closed
- Nov 19 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

CONTACT US

- | | | | |
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| Building Department | 415-453-1453 x106 | Public Works Director | 415-453-1453 x115 |
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| Bldg Inspection Hotline | 415-453-1453 x170 | Recreation Department | 415-453-6020 |
| - erobbe@townofross.org | | - rossrec@rossrecreation.org | |
| Planning/Bldg Director | 415-453-1453 x121 | Ross Valley Fire Dept | 415-258-4686 |
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Visit us at www.townofross.org



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