

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 18 | Issue 6 | June 2024

Mayor's Corner



Mayor Bill Kircher

Summer-like weather has arrived early in Ross, with temperatures rising to as much as 90 degrees under mostly blue skies. This week schools are out for the summer break, and we're looking forward to a continuation of this great weather for our annual Fourth of July parade, which will begin at 11:00 a.m.

on the Fourth, followed by a celebration and activities on the Common.

The beginning of warm dry weather, coupled with lots of rain and more vegetation, leads to increased wildfire risk. The Ross Valley Fire Department, Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority, and other public agencies are continuing their work to reduce wildfire risk and plan effective responses and evacuation. Defensible Space Inspectors will be evaluating Ross properties soon to assist us in identifying measures we should take to harden our homes and create and maintain defensible space around our homes. Inspectors will prepare a detailed Wildfire Risk Report for each property with lots of helpful information that we should follow.

We all have a part to play in protecting ourselves, our families, homes, and neighbors. You can begin by signing up, if you haven't already done so, for Alert Marin by clicking [here](#). This is a very effective system and the primary way you will be alerted to wildfire risk and

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ROSS HOUSING ELEMENT—CERTIFIED

The Town of Ross has been actively engaged in the State mandated process of updating its Housing Element since April of 2022. The Housing Element is one of seven base required elements of the Town's General Plan, which is a community's comprehensive guide for future growth and development.

The Housing Element includes policies and programs to address the housing needs of a local community. Currently, the State of California mandates local jurisdictions, like the Town of Ross, to update their Housing Elements every eight years. The State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has specific guidelines, criteria, and timelines for updating Housing Elements. Additionally, HCD staff review locally adopted Housing Elements to ensure that State requirements are satisfied.

The Town of Ross Town Council adopted the Housing Element Update on May 31, 2023. On June 4, 2024, HCD provided a letter finding the Town's 2023-31 Housing Element in substantial compliance, which provides the Town with a certified 6th Cycle Housing Element.

As noted in [Chapter 4](#), Housing Action Plan, Town staff will be working on specific goals, policies, and programs to achieve the long term housing objectives set forth in the Ross Housing Element.

For questions or inquiries, please contact:

Roberta Feliciano, Planning and Building Director

rfeliciano@townofross.org or 415-453-1453 ext. 121



receive instructions for evacuation. The most likely time a large mega-fire will occur is during a "Red Flag Warning" day, when weather conditions are hot, there is low humidity, and winds are gusty. Please pay very close attention to these and watch for signs posted around town. For more information, please visit [Fire Safe Marin](#). The Fire Safe Marin and Ross Valley Fire Department websites, <https://firesafemarin.org> and <https://www.rossvalleyfire.org> have a wealth of information and are terrific sources of detailed and helpful instructions and advice to assist you in getting ready for wildfires.

Increasing wildfire risk, along with a host of other factors, have led major insurers to pull back on issuance and renewal of homeowners insurance policies, leaving many, including Ross residents, having to scramble for replacement coverage. There are major initiatives underway at the state level to stabilize the insurance market, including changes in the way insurers set their rates that take increased wildfire risk into account. These should be available by about December. Rates may increase as much as twenty percent, then moderate as insurers return to the California market. In the meantime, if you are faced with non-renewal of your policy, there is helpful information and advice on the Ross Valley Fire Department Website by clicking [here](#), and the Fire Safe Marin Website by clicking [here](#). The Town is also streamlining procedures for homeowners who must replace siding on their homes as a condition to renew their insurance.

In the meantime, be safe, enjoy your summer, and we hope to see you at the Fourth of July parade and celebration on the Common!



~Mayor Bill Kircher

RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOODS









Graduates- Please spread the word

Join a [Climate Action Workshop](#) and become part of the solution to create a greener, more sustainable future.


Summer Workshop Schedule:

Thursday Workshop
Five Thursdays starting
June 13 | 6:30-8:00pm
[Sign Up Here](#)

Tuesday Workshop
Five Tuesdays starting
June 18 | 4:00-5:30pm
[Sign Up Here](#)

Free for Marin Residents
[Sign Up Today](#)

WILDFIRE WATCH



*Home Insurance
June 17th at 6pm*

**Streaming Live from MarinTV Studio
Monday, June 17, 2024, 6:00 pm**
Join on [Zoom](#), Facebook, or watch on Comcast Channel 30

What will you do if your home insurance gets canceled or is not renewed? This is a worry that looms over too many of us in Marin. It's a real problem that has drawn attention in the media, bringing into focus the increased vulnerabilities of California homes to wildfires, floods and other climate-driven disasters.

Join us on June 17 at 6 pm for a Special Edition of Wildfire Watch TV. Learn what options are available to you if you lose your insurance and what you can do to protect your home's vulnerability – both to insurance loss and wildfire.

Host
Rich Shortall, Executive Officer of Fire Safe Marin

Guests
Amy Bach, Co-founder of United Policyholders
Eric Henerlau, Independent Insurance Broker/Agent
Mark Brown, Executive Officer of Marin Wildfire

****Watch on Comcast Channel 30, Facebook, or join live on Zoom****

<https://firesafemarin.zoom.us/j/83348096341>

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.

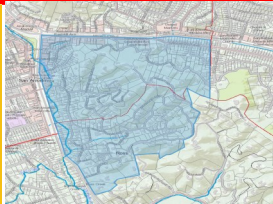
Address: 9 Thomas Court
Applicant: Leland & Kristin Clemons
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 51 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard
Applicant: Noah Berry
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0



WILDFIRE RISK HOME EVALUATION PROGRAM

Defensible Space & Home Hardening



Coming soon to your neighborhood: Wildfire Risk Home Evaluations

The Marin Wildfire and your local fire department are committed to working with you to reduce the risk of wildfire through home hardening and defensible space evaluations on your property. **Starting as early as July 1st, neighbors in the Barber and Winship neighborhoods of San Anselmo and Ross as well as Ross properties west of Sir Francis Drake will be evaluated for wildfire risk by your local fire department.** If you are not at home, we will only inspect what we can see from the street to your front door.

Your Wildfire Risk Report will be available for review approximately 24 hours after the inspection. It provides steps to reduce wildfire risks and improve your safety. Please open your report, review the findings and access resources. Some actions may be required by law. Property owners are required to maintain their properties' vegetation at all times during fire season and should not wait for an inspection to begin work.

Review your report online or request a copy to be mailed to you. Go to marinwildfirespace.org or call (415) 275 – 1185 for help and resources. Wildfire Risk Reports are available online to property owners, renters, and authorized representatives.

This program is provided by your local fire department and Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority, funded by Tax Measure C (2020)



Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority Defensible Space and Home Hardening Evaluation Program

<http://dspace.marinwildfire.org>

| dspace@marinwildfire.org | (415) 275-1185

Fire-Smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners



June: Clean Up Zone 0

Zone 0 is the area within 5 feet of your home and is a critical area to keep clean of any combustible materials in order to better protect your home from fire.

- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof, and rain gutters.
- Clean-up areas where wind eddies deposit leaf and plant litter along the perimeter of your home.
- Replace plants within 5 feet of the home with potted plants that are easy to move away from the home during a fire threat.
- Remove combustible mulch within 5 feet of the home and move it to another location in your garden.
- Move common combustible fire hazards away from the area immediately surrounding your home including brooms, rakes, plastic waste bins, wood furniture, furniture cushions, wood piles, and natural fiber door mats.

Additional learning resources:

Zone 0: <https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/BASICS/FIRESMARTLANDSCAPING/Plan/#zones>

Mulch guidelines: <https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/BASICS/FIRESMARTLANDSCAPING/Plan/#woodpiles>

Managing common fire hazards: <https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/BASICS/FIRESMARTLANDSCAPING/Plan/#woodpiles>

Fire-smart landscape maintenance: <https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/BASICS/FIRESMARTLANDSCAPING/Maintain/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPING, VISIT [UCMARIN MASTER GARDENER WEBSITE](http://UCMARINMASTERGARDENERWEBSITE).



Age Friendly Ross

Age Friendly network was established by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2010 to foster healthy, active aging to enable older adults to age safely and comfortably in a place that is right for them.

The Ross Age Friendly Task Force was formed in 2018 and meets monthly to provide ideas on social and community participation, communication, emergency preparedness and health/wellness information.

To implement these ideas, Age Friendly Ross sponsors lunches and breakfasts to discuss current matters and works with Ross Recreation to provide classes for older adults. Nearly 1/3 of the Ross community are adults over the age of 60 and the percentage is growing. Come join us! Contact us at agefriendly@townofross.org. All are welcome!



Red Flag Warnings

The Town of Ross Police (RPD), in collaboration with the Ross Valley Fire Department (RVFD), are bringing a new warning notice to Town residents. The Red Flag Warning program will help bring attention to fire danger in our community. Red Flag Fire Warnings are not new, however our response to them, and messaging to our community will be a new task the RPD will perform starting this July.

Red Flag Warning signs are temporary and will be placed in access points to potentially vulnerable hillsides, or neighborhoods that might have more than usual dry brush.

The signs will be placed in these areas early in the morning and will stay there until the Red Flag warning has been lifted by the Fire Department or Weather Service. The signs are attached to black plastic frames that look like sawhorses. A white official town sign with red lettering will simply say RED FLAG WARNING.

Look for these signs in the following locations:

- 40 Wellington Avenue near the tree
- Bolinas Avenue at Glenwood Avenue
- Lagunitas Road at Ross Common intersection
- Laurel Grove at Monte Allegra
- In front of the Police Station on Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
- An additional sign is also placed at Natalie Coffin Green Park by the Rangers

Currently, the RPD drive our town streets while patrolling for safety and security reasons. We also check and respond to calls for service reporting access issues for emergency equipment. Starting this summer, on Red Flag Warning days, our officers will proactively drive neighborhoods with the emphasis of making sure our roads are accessible for fire trucks. We encourage residents not to wait for us to find a street access problem, but to call our non-emergency line at 415-453-2727 to report the hazard.

So, what is a Red Flag Warning?

A Red Flag Warning means that critical fire weather conditions are expected throughout a certain time period. Residents are advised to exercise extreme caution during a Red Flag Warning because a simple spark could cause a major wildfire, including the use of equipment and machinery, as well as unsafe disposal of smoking materials.

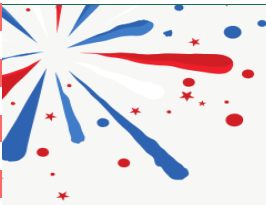
Weather and climate play major roles in the development and spread of wildfires. Of the three major components making up a fire's environment (fuel, weather, and topography), weather is the most important, and it is continuously changing. Weather elements that play the largest role in wildfires are:

- Wind
 - Relative Humidity/Atmospheric Moisture
 - Temperature
- In addition, drought, a result of certain weather conditions and climate, must be considered.

Safety Tips during Red Flag Warning Days:

- Avoid using barbecues or fire pits outdoors.
- Avoid using any source of heat or open flame outdoors.
- Avoid using power tools (gas or electric), or mowers.
- Properly discard cigarettes.
- Keep vehicles off dry grass or vegetation.
- Avoid closed areas and be alert while visiting (open) public lands where wildfires might occur.
- Sign up for your local emergency alerts at AlertMarin.org.





Town of Ross

4TH OF JULY

PARADE BEGINS AT 11:00AM
CELEBRATION ON ROSS COMMON: 11:30AM-2:30PM
LIVE MUSIC, FOOD AND DRINKS, CARNIVAL GAMES,
PATRIOTIC POOCH DOG CONTEST, AND MORE!

SIGN UP FOR THE PARADE, TO VOLUNTEER, AND TO
ENTER YOUR DOG IN THE CONTEST BELOW

www.rossrecreation.org
(415) 453-6020



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



ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 2024

June 19 All Day Juneteenth Holiday—Town Offices Closed

JULY 2024

July 4 All Day July 4th Holiday—Town Offices Closed

July 4 11:00 am July 4th Parade

July 11 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

July 15 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)

July 16 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

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)

CONTACT US

Administration Office 415-453-1453 x105
- cmartel@townofross.org

Building Department 415-453-1453 x106
- breher@townofross.org

Bldg Inspection Hotline 415-453-1453 x170
- erobbe@townofross.org

Planning/Bldg Director 415-453-1453 x121
- rfeliciano@townofross.org

Planner 415-453-1453 x116
- alopez-vega@townofross.org

Police Department 415-453-1453, Opt. 2
- rpata@townofross.org

Public Works Director 415-453-1453 x115
- rsimonitch@townofross.org

Recreation Department 415-453-6020
- rossrec@rossrecreation.org

Ross Valley Fire Dept 415-258-4686
Town Manager 415-453-1453 x107

- cjohnson@townofross.org

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 320, Ross, CA 94957
Street Address: 31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Ross, CA 94957

Visit us at www.townofross.org



We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email cmartel@townofross.org

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