

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 18 | Issue 3 | March 2024

Mayor's Corner



Mayor Elizabeth Brekhus

The election results have yet to be officially announced, which may seem unusual as we refrain from swearing in or extending congratulations to Bill Kircher, Teri

Dowling, and Mat Salter. Nonetheless, the posted election re-

sults overwhelmingly indicate that they have been elected to the Council by Ross residents. The new Council members will be sworn in at the April 25 budget meeting, during which the Council will determine the financial objectives for the upcoming year.

Serving on the Council offers a profound experience, broadening one's perspective on who represents the Town of Ross and providing opportunities to connect with individuals one might not encounter otherwise.

On Tuesday evening, I had the pleasure of dining with former Council members Carla Small, Katie Hoertkorn, and Rupert Russell. It was a delightful reunion, allowing us to reminisce about past Council events. Each of these individuals

Continued on Page 2

Reception for Retiring Council Members

After 12 years serving the Town of Ross on the Town Council, Beach Kuhl and Elizabeth Brekhus are retiring!

Both Council Members have served as your Mayor for 3 terms with countless additional hours spent representing residents on local Committees addressing issues important to Ross.

Beach was committed to maintaining transparency with the community, keeping flood control projects moving while supporting citizens' efforts to harden their homes from flooding, and supporting Branson School's efforts to grow.

Elizabeth was committed to continuing the historic practice of civility and respect for other council members, disagreeing at times, and then getting back to the business of doing work together in a collaborative way.

In honor of their dedicated, tireless efforts on behalf of the Town of Ross, you are invited to celebrate their service at a reception at Town Hall, 31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 5:00pm (before the Town Council meeting).

All are welcome! Light refreshments will be served.

IN THIS ISSUE

2. AlertMarin County-wide Test, 3/23/24
3. Planning Results
3. Ride Safe in Ross
3. Ross Auxiliary Spring Fling, 3/30/24
3. UC Master Gardeners—March Tips
3. Ross Auxiliary A Verdant Affair, 4/20/24
4. Ross Age Friendly—Thanking Sponsors
4. Ross Valley Little League Season Starts
4. Ross Recreation Update
4. Ross Recreation is Hiring
5. Calendar

Join us for
COFFEE
with the
CHIEF

FRIDAY ★ MARCH 22
10:30 AM to NOON

At CROWN & CRUMPET
22 ROSS COMMON



contributed significant time volunteering to govern the Town, each with their own distinct priorities.

I recalled Carla's persistent advocacy for ensuring that garages remained functional as garages rather than morphing into additional living space. While her stance often brought to mind the ping pong table occupying my own garage, unused for years, Carla's rationale stemmed from her desire for consistency in zoning regulations and the treatment of residential remodels.

Katie's concern over the Town's finances was palpable and justified. She highlighted the lack of an investment policy upon joining the Council, noting that Town investments were managed akin to a personal savings account. Although no funds were missing, the Town's financial practices fell short of best practices, prompting Katie's dedicated efforts to institute reforms.

Rupert's advocacy for reducing impervious surfaces to mitigate flooding was deeply rooted in his personal experience of property inundation. His push for exceptions for basements, attics and streamlined rebuilding regulations following disasters stemmed from firsthand knowledge of the challenges residents faced.

Each Council member brings their unique goals, expertise, and experiences to the table, shaping their vision for Council priorities. Despite Ross's small size, we have been fortunate to maintain a committed group of volunteers dedicated to managing the Town.

~~Mayor Elizabeth Brekhus

Countywide Emergency System Test March 23, 2024 at 10:00am

AlertMarin is the county's primary system to alert residents of an urgent need to evacuate, shelter in place, or take some other protective action. On Saturday, March 23, the County's [Office of Emergency Management](#) will conduct a countywide test with a 10:00 am notification sent to opted-in cell phones, landlines, and emails of those registered for [AlertMarin.org](#). It will be the first time a test of this magnitude will take place in Marin County.

All who live or work in Marin County are encouraged to sign-up to receive emergency alerts ahead of the test. Those already registered are asked to sign-in and manage their account by verifying their contact information is up to date. Once a person registers with AlertMarin, information can be updated at any time about the registrant's contacts, a child's school, a workplace, or a relative's home.

It only takes about 10 minutes to register for a service that could save your and your families life in the event of a major disaster. Emergency preparedness and disaster planning are critical components of all the public safety services provided by the County of Marin.

The Town of Ross urges community members to register now on [AlertMarin.org](#).

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will activate a call center to assist with community inquiries between 9am and noon on test day.



ALERTMARIN

TEST ON MARCH 23 AT 10:00 AM

Register for emergency alerts at [AlertMarin.org](#).



PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the March 14, 2024 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's March 14 website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted on this page after adoption by the Council.

Address: 65 Wellington Avenue
Applicant: Sutro Architects
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

RIDE SAFE IN ROSS

Now that the weather is clearing up, it's expected that more kids and visitors will be riding their bikes to school and throughout town.

The Ross Police Department is a partner in the Safe Routes to School program in Marin County and is committed to safety on our roads.

The Ross Police Department is handing out glow in the dark wrist bands to remind riders to **RIDE SAFE IN ROSS**. This program is designed to bring attention to sharing the road safely.

In the coming month, Ross officers will partner with Ross School to get the message of safe riding to local families. They will also educate and transition to enforcement for safety violations for all riders. The Ride Safe in Ross program will also keep special attention on eBike safety in Ross.



ROSS AUXILIARY

SPRING Fling

PETTING ZOO • TRY-IT TRUCK • COOKIE DECORATING
FACE PAINTING • LIVE KIDS MUSIC

Plus: Egg Hunts at 11:30 AM (Bring your own basket!)
Enjoy: Food & Drinks

Sat, March 30
10:30 - 12:30
Marin Art and Garden Center

ROSS AUXILIARY

www.rossauxiliary.com



Fire-Smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners

MARCH: Remove and Replace Invasives

Invasive plants spread quickly, use precious water, and add considerable amounts of fuel for fire.

- ◆ Remove invasive plants such as ivy, broom, and pampas grass.
- ◆ Replace with California natives, pollinator plants, or low-water use plants.
- ◆ When replacing invasives with new plants, use appropriate plant spacing based on how close you are planting to your home and other structures.
- ◆ If you decide not to replace an invasive plant by planting a new plant in its place, use an appropriate mulch to cover the bare spot to prevent weeds and other opportunistic plants from establishing in this area.

Additional learning resources:

Invasive plants: https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/PLANTS/PLANTS_TO_AVOID/

Native plants: https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/PLANTS/CAL_NATIVE_PLANTS/

Plant spacing: <https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/BASICS/FIRESMARTLANDSCAPING/Plan/#spacing>

Mulch: <https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/BASICS/FIRESMARTLANDSCAPING/Tips/#Jul>

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPING, VISIT [UC MASTER GARDENER WEBSITE](https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/PLANTS/PLANTS_TO_AVOID/).



You're Invited...

A Verdant Affair: An Evening in Green!
Spring Dinner on April 20, 2024
5pm Cocktails
7pm Dinner
([Purchase Tickets Here](#))





A shout out to the sponsors for the February 15th Age Friendly Ross Valentine's Luncheon

- Town of Ross
- Ross Property Owner Association
- Cedars of Marin
- Woodlands Market
- Crown and Crumpet Café
- Marche
- Tony Tutto Pizza
- Marcia Skall of Skall Glassman Sotheby's
- West End Nursery
- Sloat Garden Center
- Trader Joes
- Ross Pre-School

For more information about the Age Friendly Ross Taskforce and to find out about our next



ROSS VALLEY LITTLE LEAGUE

KEY DATES

- Practices start early-mid March
- Games begin Saturday March 16th



Opening Day Parade
Saturday March 23rd



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



We Are

HIRING

P/T RECREATION INSTRUCTORS!

Part-time Afterschool Youth Recreation Instructors for general afterschool, K-8 Sports, Arts, Music classes, and more!

Immediate openings available.

Scan QR code to learn more and apply!



rossrec@rossrecreation.org

415-453-6020

9 Lagunitas Rd, Ross CA 94957



ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2024

- Mar 19 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Mar 22 10:30 am Coffee with the Chief (Crown & Crumpet)

APRIL 2024

- Apr 4 5:00 pm Reception for Retiring Council Members. All are Welcome. (Town Hall)
- Apr 4 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Apr 8 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
- Apr 16 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Apr 19 4:30 pm Live on the Common
- Apr 25 9:00 am Town Council Annual Special Meeting-Budget Workshop/New Council Member Swearing in

MAY 2024

- May 2 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- May 13 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
- May 21 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- May 27 All Day Memorial Day Holiday—Town Offices Closed

JUNE 2024

- June 6 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- June 10 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
- June 11 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- June 19 All Day Juneteenth Holiday—Town Offices Closed

CONTACT US

- | | | | |
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| Building Department | 415-453-1453 x106 | Public Works Director | 415-453-1453 x115 |
| - breher@townofross.org | | - rsimonitch@townofross.org | |
| 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 |
| - rfeliciano@townofross.org | | Town Manager | 415-453-1453 x107 |
| Planner | 415-453-1453 x116 | - cjohnson@townofross.org | |
| - alopez-vega@townofross.org | | | |

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Visit us at www.townofross.org



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