

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Mayor Bill Kircher

As the incoming Mayor, I would like to welcome everyone to the first regular meeting in the Council's new term. We're excited to have two new Council Members, Teri Dowling and Mathew Salter, who were sworn in at a special meeting April 25, and who are joining continuing Council Members Mayor Pro Tempore Julie McMillan, Elizabeth Robbins, and myself.

April was an eventful month in Ross.

The Ross Property Owners Association's Live on the Common events have now become a tradition in Ross, and the tribute to Taylor Swift concert which took place on April 19 was by all accounts the best yet. There was a huge turnout, not only of Ross residents but also from neighboring communities, and participation by Tony Tutto Pizza, our new local wine bar, and Crown and Crumpet. This was followed the next day by another wonderful tradition, the Ross Auxiliary's dinner event that occurs every two years.

At our special meeting on April 25, after Mathew and Teri joined us, we bid farewell to our two departing Council Members, Beach Kuhl and Elizabeth Brekhus, and recognized and thanked them for their exceptional contributions to the Town as they each completed three very impactful terms on the Council. We are fortunate to have had the benefit of their deep commitment and experience over the past 12 years.

But we are also fortunate to have the fresh perspectives and expertise that Mathew Salter and Teri Dowling bring to the Council. Both have previously been involved in Town affairs as volunteers, Mathew on RPOA and Teri on the Age Friendly Task Force. Mathew brings expertise in finance and property development with a focus on affordable housing, while Teri brings her background in community disaster preparedness and response and as a Commissioner on the Marin County Commission on Aging. Importantly, Mat has children in the Ross school and is well positioned to be a

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NEW AND RETURNING COUNCIL MEMBERS

TERI DOWLING

Teri has lived in the beautiful Town of Ross with her husband Mal since 1991. She holds two master's degrees, one in education from the University of Denver and one in public health from UC Berkeley. Early in her work life, she served as a Peace Corp Volunteer training teachers in Ghana, West Africa. For much of her adult life Teri worked for the San Francisco Department of Public Health where she held several management and director positions including directing community health education, HIV counseling and testing and managing community planning for emergency preparedness & response. From 2011-2024, Teri represented Ross on the Marin County Commission on Aging, serving for two years as the Chair and in 2018, she initiated the Age Friendly Ross Taskforce.



BILL KIRCHER

Bill Kircher was once again elected to the Town Council in March 2024, and is serving as Mayor of Ross. He is an attorney (Stanford Law School) with broad-based experience in state and local government. He is a former Assistant United States Attorney (Los Angeles), the principal legislative aide to a Bay Area State Senator and a committee consultant for the California State Senate Committee on Health and Welfare. In addition to his government service, he has been a trial attorney in private practice, handling primarily complex litigation with an emphasis on securities and intellectual property issues. He has taught Constitutional law at Stanford through its continuing studies program and serves as a general partner of an investment partnership that owns and develops commercial properties in parts of California and five other states.



MATHEW SALTER

Mathew Salter moved to Ross in 2018 with his wife Tracy. They have two sons who currently attend the Ross School. Since moving to Ross, Mathew and Tracy have been active in the community: Mathew served as the Treasurer of the Ross Property Owners Association (2020-24) and in 2021, Tracy established Ross Bridges, a local preschool and educational center in downtown Ross. Mathew graduated from the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley and after fifteen years working in Finance, now works in the Affordable Housing industry. He is a CFA charter holder with broad knowledge of capital markets, portfolio management, finance, budgeting, and State housing affordability issues.



voice for younger families in Ross, while Teri is well-positioned to speak for the needs of our older residents.

In addition to attending regular and special meetings of the Council, Council Members serve on four Ross Council Standing Committees and act as representatives to and liaisons with a number of regional and county agencies, task forces, and committees. We are also grateful for the efforts of residents who have volunteered to represent Ross as liaisons to other outside groups, including Gil Fleitas, Chris Martin, Diane Dooda, and Tom Gaffney.

One of the special meetings the Council participates in each year is our annual budget workshop, an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year with our Town Manager, Christa Johnson, and which took place on April 25. I am happy to report that our Town is in a strong financial position, due in no small part to the Town's conservative and responsible fiscal management. But we also face challenges in the coming years, including rising costs, particularly in the public safety area, while our revenue sources are limited and constrained by state law.

Overall we are doing well and have much to be thankful for, including our exceptional Town Manager, dedicated and hardworking staff, the service of Council Members and many other volunteers, including those who serve on the Advisory Design Review Group, RPOA and the Auxiliary, and especially our residents, who stepped up to the plate and turned out to support the passage of Measure E, for the renewal of the very important public safety tax so essential to keep Ross the safe small town community we want it to be.

Finally, and speaking of transitions, please be sure to visit and welcome our new businesses, the 6 Oz Wine Bar and Studio M Hair Styling Salon, which will be holding open houses on May 8.

~~Mayor Bill Kircher

Town of Ross Housing Element Update

Milestones and Schedule for Project Finalization

Following adoption of the 2023-31 Housing Element by the Town Council on May 31, 2023, the document was sent to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for review and certification. HCD has 60 days to review the revised Housing Element; however, it is anticipated that HCD will complete its review in a shorter period of time and may issue a finding of conditional compliance, contingent on the Town Council re-adopting the Element as revised.

The following are they key milestones and dates anticipated for finalization of the project:

- Revised Housing Element posted for Public Review..... April 11, 2024
- Town Council Hearing to adopt amended Housing Element.....May 6, 2024
- Revised Housing Element Resubmittal to State..... May 16, 2024

Penalties for Non-Compliance

The Town of Ross is legally required to adopt and implement a Housing Element that complies with State law. Failure to do so can result in de-certification, lawsuits, fines and penalties:

- Limited access to State funding, including for local roadway maintenance and capital improvements
- Court imposed fines of up to \$600,000 per month
- Court mandated compliance
- Court suspension of local control on building matters
- Court approval of housing developments, with payment of plaintiff attorney fees mandated
- Possible exposure to potential Builder's Remedy

HCD utilizes the Annual Progress Reports to measure the Town's performance in the implementation of the Housing Element.

Resources Needed

- \$30,000 has been included in the draft budget for part-time support to implement straightforward action items such as checklists, workshops, website improvements, etc.
- \$75,000 has been included in the draft budget for consultants to complete the technical action items such as zoning code amendments, etc.
- Significant dedication of hours by the Planning and Building Director to complete action items such as streamlining the design review process, manage consultants and part time support, oversee Housing Element implementation, etc.
- Future budget years may require additional resources

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the May 6, 2024 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's May 6 website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted on this page after adoption by the Council.

Address: 51 Shady Lane
Applicant: Barbara Chambers
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Robbins recused)

Address: 124 Winding Way
Applicant: Karen Polite
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Fire-Smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners



May: Lean & Clean Exit Routes

In case of a fire, know your best escape routes and keep yourself, your family, and firefighters safe by maintaining a clean and lean landscape around your property's exit routes.

- ◆ Keep vegetation around your exit routes pruned for clearance and hydrated for optimal plant health.
- ◆ Remove combustible materials such as jute door mats, wood planters and furniture, etc. from your exits.
- ◆ Remove dead plant material and debris from exit routes, and all plant material growing near doors and windows.
- ◆ Replace wood gates, arbors, or trellises near exit routes with metal.
- ◆ Have evacuation signs ready to post at home exits. These signs will inform fire personnel that you have left the property. Check with your local fire department for signs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MAINTAINING A FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPE VISIT THE [UC MARIN MASTER GARDENER WEBSITE](#).



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPING, VISIT [UC MARIN MASTER GARDENER WEBSITE](#).

You're Invited to Age Friendly Ross'

Breakfast Gathering

Wednesday, May 8th 10am - 11:30am Marin Art & Garden Center

Come join us for a light breakfast and learn about a well kept secret right in our backyard: the Emeritus Students College of Marin (ESCOM)!

- ESCOM is a pioneer provider of lifelong learning in Marin County and beyond.
- ESCOM provides a rich variety of free interactive clubs, interesting monthly talks and social, cultural events, both online and in person.
- ESCOM has been cited as a national model and is 100% volunteer driven. There are no educational or financial requirements to participate... only a desire to learn, enjoy, and be involved!

To learn more, join us on Wednesday, May 8th, from 10-11:30am at the Marin Art & Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Livermore Room and hear from ESCOM's leadership and club leaders.

Please RSVP by May 6th to Maureen Borthwick, Ross Recreation Manager, at agefriendly@townofross.org or (415) 453-6020



The Age Friendly Ross Taskforce is committed to working with residents of all ages, but with a particular focus on older adults, to listen, advocate and act in support of healthy and active aging.

Artwork by Cedars artist Monica Farwell

Election Results: March 5, 2024 Election

The ballots for the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election were certified by the County of Marin on 3/27/24. The election results show the following winners based on the votes counted. Four candidates ran for Council to fill three seats. The names listed are in order of highest votes received. The Town's Paramedic Safety Parcel Tax Measure (Measure E) was also on the ballot and required a two-thirds Yes vote to pass.

Town Council

C. William (Bill) Kircher	536	(30.80%)
Teri Dowling	515	(29.60%)
Mathew Salter	502	(28.85%)
Shadi Aboukhater	187	(10.75%)

Measure E

Yes = 683 (78.15%) No = 191 (21.85%)



A Big Thank You to Search and Rescue

The Town of Ross wishes to extend our thanks and gratitude to the County of Marin's Search and Rescue Team for their quick deployment and dedication in finding a missing at-risk Ross resident.

The Ross Town Hall was transformed into an Incident Command Center, packed with equipment and individuals whose total focus was searching for and finding the missing resident and successfully returning him home to his worried family.



GOLDEN BELL AWARD WINNER!

Each year school districts have the opportunity to nominate a "Community Partner" who goes above and beyond to help and support the school to receive a "Golden Bell."



Chief Pata

The Golden Bell is given to educators, programs and community partners annually to award excellence in Marin County Education and we nominated Ross's own Chief Pata.

Chief Pata is a foundational member of the Ross community. He does his work from a place of relationships and community building. He cares about our kids, their families and their safety. Chief Pata also regularly participates with student projects, school and town-wide safety, and is always a warm welcome in the morning.

The ceremony where Chief Pata will receive his Golden Bell Award is May 23rd, 2024 at 4:30 pm at Dominican University, Angelico Hall.

Congratulations Chief, the entire Ross community loves and respects you and your team.



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

MAY 2024

- May 8 10:00 am Age Friendly Breakfast (MAGC)
- 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 10 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
- June 11 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- June 13 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- 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 8 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
- July 11 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- July 16 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

AUGUST 2024

- Aug 5 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
- Aug 8 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Aug 20 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Aug 23 4:30 pm Live on the Common

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 | |
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Visit us at www.townofross.org



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

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