

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Mayor Bill Kircher

Halloween typically marks the beginning of the holiday season, and this year Shady Lane residents once again created a dazzling display with their creative and spooky decorations, much to the delight of the many trick-or-treaters and their families. This was followed on November 7 by the Ross Turkey Trot, which featured 5k and

10k races, a 1-mile Stroller and Youth event, and the popular Toddler Dash.

Last year, and after extensive public outreach, the Town Council approved a Master Facilities plan for reconstruction of our aging and largely obsolete public safety and administration buildings. The plan was based on the assumption that our fire station would close in July of 2025, with our firefighters and engine transferred to other stations in the Ross Valley Fire Department, and that the paramedics would remain to insure an adequate response time in medical emergencies.

Paramedic services are provided by Ross Valley Paramedic Authority by paramedics who in turn operate two ambulances, one of which has been stationed in Ross for the past 40 years, with the other located in Corte Madera.

Before proceeding to detailed construction planning, the Council requested late last year that the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority enter into a long-term lease for the Ross station to assure the continued presence of the paramedic facility in Ross.

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HOUSING ELEMENT

Racial Covenant Modifications

Discriminatory covenants are conditions written into legal documents such as property records or titles which prohibit individuals from certain races, religions, or backgrounds from owning or occupying the property. While these covenants are no longer enforceable due to U.S. Supreme Court Case Shelley v. Kraemer, a number of these conditions still exist in property documents today. The County of Marin is taking a proactive approach to removing these restrictions from legal documents through their Restrictive Covenant Project. This project aims to place modifications and amendments within the document which alert the public that the restrictions are present but no longer valid.

These covenants can be identified by looking at the title report homeowners are given when purchasing the property. Ross homeowners who discover conditions like these in their legal documents or title reports are encouraged to fill out the [Restrictive Covenant Modification Form](#) and contact the Marin County Recorder's Office at (415) 473-6093. For more information on this process, please visit the Town of Ross website.

To learn more about eliminating racially restrictive covenants in Marin County, please visit the [Marin Restrictive Covenant Website](#) or watch this [video](#) produced by Marin County's Public Information Team.

Restrictive Covenants Time Progression County of Marin



The board of the Paramedic Authority decided to conduct a deployment study before acting on Ross's request, and we were led to believe that this would be completed in the March 2024 timeframe. Then the City Manager of Larkspur raised the possibility of Larkspur and Corte Madera withdrawing from the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority altogether, a development which if it were to occur could threaten the continued existence of the Paramedic Authority itself.

With these issues still up in the air and the deadline for closing our fire station looming, last month the Council authorized our Town Manager to send a letter to the Ross Valley Fire Board requesting that the closing of the Ross Fire Station be extended for one year to allow time to resolve issues concerning future provision of emergency medical services in Ross and other affected communities.

The study commissioned by the Paramedic Authority was finally completed in November. On the positive side, the completed study did confirm that Ross remains the best location for the paramedics to be stationed. But the study also highlighted issues relating to the continuing viability of the Paramedic Authority and recommended revising and strengthening the Paramedic Authority's joint powers agreement, with Larkspur and Corte Madera committing to remain a part of the authority. Obviously, this is complicated and will take a considerable amount of time to negotiate, with the outcome still very uncertain. The board of the Paramedic Authority next meets on November 21, and our request for an extension of the deadline for closing our fire station is still pending before the board of the Ross Valley Fire Department.

In other words, and as always, we have our work cut out for us. Enjoy your Thanksgiving and be sure to mark your calendars for Winterfest on December 7.

~~Mayor Bill Kircher



Gio Linares

Since his appointment as Chief of Police, Chief Pata's focus has been on filling chronic staffing gaps and prioritizing elevating training and performance with an emphasis on quality-of-life. With the approval of the Town Manager and Council his focus is now on succession planning by hiring the next generation of police officers. The Town is pleased to announce the third new officer hired for the Town of Ross, Gio Linares.

Giovanni "Gio" Linares was born and raised in Malmo, Sweden. He credits the 18 years he spent in Europe, as an incredible and positive experience in his life. His parents are originally from El Salvador, and he grew up within a Spanish culture. Gio and his family moved to the Bay Area after he graduated from high school to attend college in the United States and pursue his passion for soccer.

Officer Linares earned a Bachelor Degree in Psychology, with a minor in business from Notre Dame de Namur University (NDNU), in Belmont CA. He continued with his education and received a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from NDNU.

Gio is married to Vanessa, and they currently live in Santa Rosa. Gio is a true sports fan (Bay Area teams of course!).

Officer Linares is excited about his police career and feels fortunate to join the Ross Police Department and to be a part of the beautiful Ross Community!



Wyatt Mann

*It is the Town's pleasure to officially announce that the search for a full-time Recreation Coordinator has resulted in the hire of **Wyatt Mann**! The interviewing process and vetting of qualified candidates for this position over the past few months was thorough and extensive. After an external interview panel, in-person interviews, and background vetting, the Town followed recommendations from the external panel, as well as the Town management team and hired the top candidate.*

Wyatt Mann comes to the Town of Ross with years of community program development experience as the director for YMCA of the East Bay summer camp program, which included creating curricula such as family camps, sports programs, craft centers, and ropes course programs. Wyatt also managed Creekside Middle School's afterschool program, and the Y-Guides recreation program. With his most recent position with Bright Horizons Child Care Centers, Wyatt brings significant experience in administrative and budgetary functions.

Wyatt is married to Emma, and they currently live in Oakland. Wyatt enjoys hiking in the Oakland hills with his dog, baking with his wife and is a big Warriors fan.

Please join us in giving Wyatt a warm Town of Ross welcome!

PLANNING RESULTS

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

Address: 160 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: Sutro Architects
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

ZERO WASTE EVENT GUIDE: STEPS TO A SUSTAINABLE EVENT

Zero Waste Marin regularly attends community events to help residents learn about reducing waste. Zero Waste staff can conduct presentations about waste, host a table where attendees can learn about what Zero Waste Marin does, and discuss best practices for zero waste events with an event coordinator.

Zero Waste Marin helps take the guess work out of holding sustainable events. Their free [Zero Waste Event Guide](#) gives step-by-step, A-Z instructions on how to hold a reduced waste community event. With SB 1383 in full force in the State of California, this information is important and timely.



**ZERO
WASTE
MARIN**

Marin County is striving to reduce landfill waste through recycling, composting, and reducing unnecessary packaging.

It's that time of year again!



As the rainy season returns, it's time to turn off your sprinklers and outdoor irrigation system. Here's a simple sprinkler shutdown checklist:

- Set the irrigation controller to the "off" setting.
- Turn off water to the irrigation system at the main shut-off valve to prevent leaks due to valve failure.
- Clean drip filters to leave the system clean over the winter.

Learn more water conservation tips at <https://www.marinwater.org/>.



The Morning After

Fire-Smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners



November: Plant Spacing in a Fire-smart Landscape

Horizontal spacing:

- It is ideal to remove all plants within 5 feet of structures.
- Plant density can increase the further away from structures you get.
- Separate groups of plants with hardscaping to help slow down or prevent the spread of fire.
- On a **mild slope** (0-20% slope), space trees at least 10 feet apart from their dripline and space shrubs 2x their height from each other.
- On a **medium slope** (20-40%), space trees at least 20 feet apart and shrubs 4x their height.
- On a **steep slope** (over 40%), space trees at least 30 feet apart and shrubs 6x their height.
- Avoid planting trees in rows or hedges.

Vertical spacing:

- Remove tree branches that are within 6 feet from the ground on trees that are 18 feet or taller.
- If shrubs are under a tree, maintain a vertical clearance of 3x the shrub's height between the top of the shrub to the lowest branch of the tree.
- When creating vertical space under trees, prioritize the tree's health by ensuring that the upper two-thirds of the tree has branches.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT THE [UC Marin Master Gardeners website](#).



Marin Villages is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower older adults to stay active, connected and independent in the place they already call home.

Provides volunteers to lend a hand—rides, technology, visits and more

You can join and or volunteer

Website: MarinVillages.org

Office 415 457-4633

MARIN
VILLAGES



Our Paths - Our Choices



WINTER REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Ross Recreation offers programs for all ages, tots to seniors. Afterschool program schedules at Ross School begin at dismissal and follow the Ross School academic calendar. Ross Recreation offers Non-School Day Camps during all school closure dates to further support our families.



Fee Assistance is available!!
Call for more information and to apply!
(415) 453-6020

REGISTER TODAY! (415) 453-6020 www.rossrecreation.org

Keep Your Dog's Paw on the Right Side of the Law: News from Marin Humane

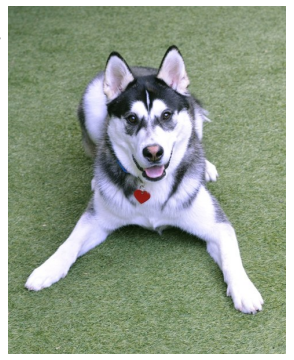
Did you know that rabies vaccinations and dog licenses are mandatory in Marin County. In fact, dog licenses are mandatory in nearly every community across North America. Why? Because licenses help keep pets and the communities they live in safe.

Marin Humane has launched a new, easy-to-use platform, which offers residents an effective pet identification and reunification program that keeps pets out of shelters and returns them home safely.

Marin County licensing tags are assigned a unique code which links to a pet's secure online profile, making it easy for anyone who finds a lost pet to reference the code and create a Found Pet Report in seconds. Pet owners can also create Lost Pet Reports as soon as they realize their pet has gone missing. Dedicated dispatch staff are available 24/7 to reunite lost pets with their families.

Residents can visit marinhumane.org/dog-licensing to buy a new license or renew an existing one. Discounts are available for owners whose pets are spayed or neutered, as well as owners who are senior (62+) or disabled.

100% of licensing revenue goes towards animal services in Marin.



Notes from the Garden



Winter Wonderland at Marin Art & Garden Center, December 6-15

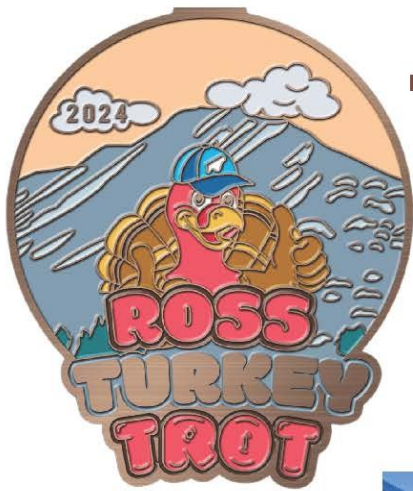
This magical holiday experience invites families and visitors to wander the garden enjoying magical lights, music, and activities for children and adults of all ages.

Highlights include:

- ⇒ An outdoor skating rink with snow and music under bistro lighting at the Livermore Pavilion
- ⇒ WinterFest with Ross Auxiliary on Saturday, December 7, from 3 to 6 pm, featuring a kiddie train, the Pixie Park Bake Sale, and snow!
- ⇒ Hot cocoa, cider and snacks
- ⇒ Relax by the outdoor fireplace in the cozy warming hut
- ⇒ Holiday crafts and workshops with local artisans, hands-on holiday arts, crafts and activities for kids and families
- ⇒ Cookie decorating and kits
- ⇒ Music from Branson A' Capella and AWHJ Jazz Band
- ⇒ *Blithe Spirit* at Ross Valley Players
- ⇒ Marin Open Studios *Winter Showcase*
- ⇒ Ritter Center sock drive
- ⇒ To learn more about WinterFest and book skating tickets, visit www.maringarden.org/winterwonderland.



Marin Art and Garden Center



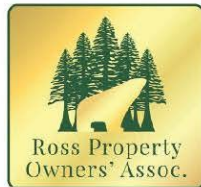
THANK YOU PARTICIPANTS, VOLUNTEERS, AND SPONSORS!



2024 5k and 10k Winners



2024 Costume Contest Winners



ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



NOVEMBER 2024

Nov 19 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
 Nov 28 & 29 All Day Thanksgiving Holiday—Town Offices Closed

DECEMBER 2024

Dec 7 3-6 pm Winterfest (MAGC)
 Dec 9 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
 Dec 12 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
 Dec 17 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
 Dec 23-27 All Day End of Year Holidays—Town Offices Closed

JANUARY 2025

Jan 1 All Day New Year's Day—Town Offices Closed
 Jan 6 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
 Jan 9 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
 Jan 20 All Day Martin Luther King Jr Holiday—Town Offices Closed
 Jan 21 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

FEBRUARY 2025

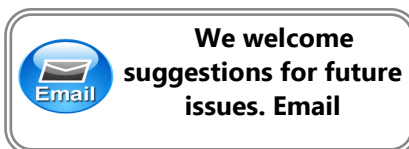
Feb 10 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
 Feb 13 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
 Feb 18 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

CONTACT US

Administration Office	415-453-1453 x105	Police Department	415-453-1453, Opt. 2
- cmartel@townofrossca.gov		- rpata@townofrossca.gov	
Building Department	415-453-1453 x106	Public Works Director	415-453-1453 x115
- breher@townofrossca.gov		- rsimonitch@townofrossca.gov	
Bldg Inspection Hotline	415-453-1453 x170	Recreation Department	415-453-6020
- erobbe@townofrossca.gov		- rossrec@rossrecreationca.gov	
Planning/Bldg Director	415-453-1453 x121	Ross Valley Fire Dept	415-258-4686
- rfeliciano@townofrossca.gov		Town Manager	415-453-1453 x107
Planner	415-453-1453 x116	- cjohnson@townofrossca.gov	
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Visit us at www.townofrossca.gov



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