

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 | Issue 11 | November 2018

Mayor's Corner



Beach Kuhl
Mayor

Our continuing warm and dry Fall weather makes it difficult to conjure up a flood in Ross and the unavoidable off-and-on way in which flood relief planning occurs, makes it difficult to keep track of where we are in the process. So here's what I understand: After a series of public meetings and site visits last winter, we are currently completing a review of the draft joint federal Environmental Impact Statement and the California Environmental Impact Report for the Corte Madera Flood Risk Management Project. This document does not provide many of the details we, and especially those with property in the flood plain, would like to see addressed. The Town Council will be submitting extensive comments, including

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Town Responds to Flood Project DEIS/EIR

On October 12, 2018 The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) and the Marin County Flood Control District (MCFCD) jointly released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/EIR) for a 45 day public review period which ends on November 27, 2018. The DEIS/EIR is a joint environmental document that has been prepared as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The DEIR/EIS provides five project Alternatives (A, B, F, G, J) for Flood Control in Corte Madera Creek. All five Alternatives include the removal of the fish ladder and some type of transition back to the concrete channel, the installation of flood-walls, and some modifications to the natural channel bed above and below Lagunitas bridge. Alternative J, the "Tentatively Selected



Frederick Allen Park Today

Plan" (i.e. the USACE preferred project alternative), proposes modifications to Corte Madera Creek between the Sir Francis Drake Bridge in Ross and the end of the concrete channel behind the College of Marin, including the construction of a concrete bypass culvert under Sir Francis Drake Boulevard to provide additional capacity during high flows in the creek, the removal of approximately 750 feet of concrete channel downstream of the fish ladder, construction of flood walls adjacent to the creek, and a riparian flood plain area with pedestrian and bike access within Frederick Allen Park.

The Town's draft letter to the USACE includes extensive comments related to the proposed conversion of the Frederick Allen Park into a riparian corridor/floodplain park and the Town of Ross role as a landowner, and approval and permitting authority for multiple items within the Town. Other points of concern were questions regarding Flood Benefits if only the initial portion of the Alternative is constructed, more detailed information regarding the proposed Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Bypass, traffic circulation, staging, parking, noise, and other impacts within the Town related to construction.

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requests for more detail on many aspects of the draft document; members of the public can likewise submit comments through November 27 either in writing, by email or at a hearing in front of the County Board of Supervisors on November 13. Details and addresses are available at the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project webpage at: <https://bit.ly/2uCie3j>.

After the comment process is complete, the Army Corps of Engineers and the County Flood Control District will assess the comments, prepare responses, and prepare a final EIS/EIR which is expected to be ready by September 2019. After certification of the final EIS/EIR, the permitting of the design and construction can proceed. As with any environmental review, there is always the possibility of legal challenges, which could possibly delay its implementation for several years.

Phase One of the project, financed by state grants and local funding, including the flood tax we have all been paying, would involve removal of the fish ladder, channel improvements and extensive changes to Frederick Allen Park. The Town, as owner of some of the property involved, would have to approve the project and the nature of the construction activities involved.

The proposed second phase includes an underground bypass culvert under Sir Francis Drake Boulevard which would divert water from the natural channel 1,400 feet upstream of the Lagunitas Road Bridge to below the present fish ladder and would be financed with Federal funds and Marin County Flood Control District funds.

The bottom line here is that we have a long way to go before any work begins and indeed even before planning is completed. The Town will remain very actively involved in this process and we will keep everyone updated as the process continues. ■

Ross Common Sewer Line Construction Update



Ross Valley Sanitary District (RVSD) construction of the replacement sewer line was halted on the Ross Common as the contractor awaits the completion of a revised tree preservation plan for protecting the heritage trees on Ross Common.

The contractor's original arborist was unable to commit to the construction schedule so a new arborist was brought on board late last week and has been working closely with Public Works Staff and the Town arborist to develop a new plan. Once the Town staff receives, reviews, and approves the preservation plan, hopefully by early next week, construction will resume and will continue for up to three weeks, likely through the Thanksgiving holiday. Restoration of the grass field will follow closely afterward.

The sewer replacement project is needed to reduce the potential for pipe failures, spills and to reduce the amount of groundwater entering the RVSD collection system.

WINTER SING
PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN ANNUAL TOWN TRADITION
ROSS TREE LIGHTING,
CAROLING AND MINGLING WITH SANTA
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2ND AT 4PM
Ross Common, Ross

ALSO COLLECTING TOYS FOR TOTS

Please come out to kick off the holiday season with this festive small town tradition sponsored by the Ross Auxiliary at Ross Common.

4:30-5:00 pm - Singing performances by Branson School Choir and Ross Preschool
5:00 pm - Lighting of the tree followed by an appearance by Santa!

Hot Chocolate, cookies and candy canes will be served. We ask that each family bring a new, un-wrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots.

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the November Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [November 8th meeting page](#). The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the December 13, 2018 Council meeting.

Address: 47 Willow Avenue
Applicant: John & Paulette Moe
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Kuhl recused)

Address: 39 Fernhill Avenue
Applicant: The Branson School
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Robbins recused)

Preliminary Election Results For Paramedic Services Tax

With last Tuesday's election still being counted, here are preliminary results on the vote for Measure P (Paramedic Services Tax):



550 Yes votes (78.01%)
155 No votes (21.99%)

Please note these numbers do not include the absentee ballots received one or two days before the election, or the absentee ballots turned in at the polls. Those ballots are still being counted and the Marin County Elections Department/Registrar of Voters has until December 6, 2018 to certify the official results. The Registrar of Voters will continue to update their website by every Friday at (<https://www.marincounty.org/depts/rv/election-info/currentresults>) until all the ballots are counted.

Generally, the trend set with poll voting and earlier absentee ballots received tend to reflect the outcome of the election.

Three Bear Hut Contract Awarded



The Council awarded the contract for the rehabilitation of the Three Bear Hut located in Natalie Coffin Greene Park (NCGP) to John Pope Construction, Inc. for \$178,500.



The Three Bear Hut was constructed in 1935-36 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). It was designed in the so-called "Park Rustic" style developed by the National Park Service for depression-era CCC projects. The scope of work for the contract is only for the rehabilitation of the structure itself, and should be completed sometime in Spring 2019. The remaining work at NCGP, including renovation of the parking lot and the installation of new picnic tables, improved pedestrian accessibility, group seating, and interpretive signage is currently in design and are scheduled to be released for bids in the early Spring of 2019, with construction completed in the Summer of 2019.

Ross School Book Fair

Come find hundreds of books for all ages!



Please join the Ross School PTO for it's annual Book Fair November 13th through November 16th, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, in the Ross School auditorium. Ross School, along with Book Passage, will have hundreds of titles available for purchase. Additionally, they will welcome Steven Johnson, author of *How We Got to Now* and new release, *Farsighted*, for a special discussion on Thursday, November 15th, 9:00 am. Tickets are available for author talk in advance at <http://rossbearspto.com/author-coffee/> or at the door the morning of the event.



Photos courtesy of Linda Lopez

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RECREATION NEWS

Registration for the Ross Recreation Winter program is open. Programs include, hip hop dance for kindergarteners, animation 2D, Futsal, acting with Marin Theater Company, ballet, academic chess, art, game design and coding. New this winter is a class in fashion design and creative sewing. Visit the Ross Recreation website to register for the winter session.



Photo courtesy of Marin Theater Company

Ross Common will be closed from December through February for annual maintenance and turf rehabilitation. The field will be fenced off and no activity will be allowed on the field until March. This is an annual maintenance program to maintain turf quality for the various youth sports activities conducted by Ross Recreation and local youth sports organizations and for the physical education activities at Ross School.



Register for Ross Recreation programs at www.rossrecreation.org.

Town Responds to Flood Project

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The Town's draft letter and other information regarding this project can be accessed on the Town's website. Commenters are advised to mail written comments post-marked on or before November 27, 2018, to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, ATTN: Cynthia Jo Fowler, 1455 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-1398. In September 2019, the USACE and the MCFCD are scheduled to address the public comments and conduct public hearings to discuss and adopt the Final EIS/EIR. ■

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2018

Nov 5	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 8	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 12	--	--	Town Hall Offices closed for Veterans Day
Nov 13-16	8:00-4	pm	Ross School Book Fair, Ross School Auditorium (<i>see page 3 for details</i>)
Nov 22-23	--	--	Town Hall Offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday

DECEMBER 2018

Dec 2	4:00	pm	Winter Sing Tree Lighting Ceremony, Ross Common (<i>see page 2 for details</i>)
Dec 10	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 13	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 18	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 24-Dec 31	--	--	Town Hall Offices closed for the holidays

JANUARY 2019 - Happy New Year!

Jan 1	--	--	Town Hall Offices closed for New Year's Day
Jan 7	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 10	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 21	--	--	Town Hall Offices closed for Martin Luther King holiday
Jan 22	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

CONTACT US

Administration	415.453.1453 x105	Public Works Director	415.453.1453 x115
Building & Public Works	415.453.1453 x106	Recreation	415.453.6020
Planning	415.453.1453 x121	Ross Valley Fire	415.258.4686
Police	415.453.1453, Option 2	Town Manager	415.453.1453 x107

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Visit us at www.townofross.org



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

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