

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 | Issue 3 | March 2018

Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Robbins, MD
Mayor

Ross has a new postmaster! Please welcome Anabella Serrano, who was officially installed as Ross's 26th postmaster in a special ceremony at the post office on February 22. Ms. Serrano has been with the United States Postal Service for

35 years, most recently serving as the public relations coordinator in San Francisco. She previously spent 30 years working as a mail carrier. She grew up in San Francisco, and currently lives in Richmond; her two grown sons also live in the Bay Area. We are all looking forward to working with Ms. Serrano, whose expertise and experience will be greatly appreciated. Welcome!

The Town Council held its annual strategic workshop on February 15 to discuss

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Proposal to Transfer Ross Preschool

The Town of Ross has received a proposal to transfer the operation of the Ross Preschool from the Town to a non-profit under the direction of the current Preschool Director, David Hughes. The potential benefits of operating the preschool through a non-profit include increased staff hours, establishing an aftercare program and expanding the current program. Due to part time staff restrictions, the current program is unable to offer aftercare nor increase the current staff hours. The plan is for the preschool to remain located at St. John's Church with the existing preschool teachers to remain as teachers following the proposed transfer.



Ross Preschool, 1951 (Photo courtesy of Ross Historical Society)

Ross preschool has existed since the 1950's under various sponsors including Ross Recreation. The proposal seeks to continue the tradition of the preschool and add enhancements that will further improve this dynamic learning experience for preschool children.

The Town Council will consider approval of this proposal at the April 5th Town Council meeting. If approved at the April 5th Council meeting, the preschool would transfer August 1, 2018. If you have any questions or comments regarding the proposal, please send them to Town Manager Joe Chinn at jchinn@townofross.org, or Recreation Manager Mike Armstrong at marmstrong@townofross.org.



Current Ross Preschool Outdoor Classroom



Mayor's Corner - continued from Page 1

town finances, town goals, and town policies. A shared goal was to revitalize the downtown area. Our downtown has something for everyone, including charming boutique shops, a café, restaurants, a grocery/delicatessen with beer and wine, art galleries, a bicycle shop, a co-working and meeting space, landscape design services, a nail salon, hair salons, real estate offices, and much more. Downtown merchants have been meeting together to discuss ways to attract customers to the downtown area. Their first project: First Fridays in Ross! Everyone is invited to come downtown to eat, drink, and shop on the first Friday of each month, beginning April 6th. From 5 to 8 pm, the newly-formed Ross Merchants Association will host residents and visitors to a community event to include a food truck, wine and beer available at Ross Landing/Eddie's, pizza slices from Trattoria Fresco, children's activities, open house treats from participating merchants and a raffle. Come explore and support the Town's shops and businesses that help make Ross such a special place at this fun, family event.



Mayor & Postmaster Anabella Serrano

Last month's Mayor's Report mentioned that PGE is proposing to replace Ross's street lights with LED lights, which use less electricity and require less frequent replacement. Many residents have shared concerns about this proposal with council members. Concerns are focused primarily on the excessive brightness of LED lights and the unattractive blue/white hue to the lights. The Town of Ross has requested that PG&E do a small pilot installation of LED lights before any town-wide replacement is considered. The town is waiting to hear from PG&E about when and where the trial lights would be installed. ■

Town Bids Farewell to Long-Time Staff Member

The Building and Public Works Department is losing a familiar face that countless residents and contractors have been greeted by at the public counter for many years. Long-time employee, Simone Jamotte, is retiring after 23 years of service. She began working for Ross in 1994, as a part-time member of the Building and Public Works staff. Through the years, her job expanded to take on more duties and tasks to keep up with the ever-changing times. Simone has issued thousands of building permits over the years and has probably processed a permit for most residents in Town at one time or another. In her 23 years, she has worked with numerous supervisors and seen 25 residents serve as Council members.



Simone was recognized at the March Council meeting for her many years of excellent service to the Town, and presented with commemorative gifts and well wishes. Her last official day is March 15th. We thank her for her dedication, hard work, and commitment to outstanding service. We wish her all the best in her retirement, and much happiness in spending time with her family, and especially her grandchildren. Au revoir Simone - we will miss you!

February 15 Annual Council Workshop Highlights

The Town Council and staff had their annual Strategic Workshop on February 15. We made great progress on a number of issues as we move forward with specific projects, including the five year financial forecast and five year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The Town Council affirmed the current six Town goals, which are: 1) sustain financial responsibility and stability, 2) enhance effectiveness and efficiency of delivery of services, 3) maintain a safe community, 4) foster and strengthen community involvement, 5) improve infrastructure and facilities, 6) provide transparency and consistency in government.

Some of next year's projects to be completed include: preschool potential change in service delivery; pavement rehabilitation and drainage improvements in several locations in Town; downtown revitalization and zoning review; implementing new Planning and Building permit tracking software; developing detailed Design Guidelines; continue with Zoning Ordinance cleanup and amendments; review of Civic Center site to determine facilities to construct/rehabilitate; new recreation programs (to name a few).

We welcome any input you may have on the Town and priorities. While we believe the Town is on a solid path forward, there is always room for improvement. Please contact Joe Chinn at jchinn@townofross.org, if you do have any thoughts you want to share.

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the March Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [March 8th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the April 5, 2018 Council meeting.

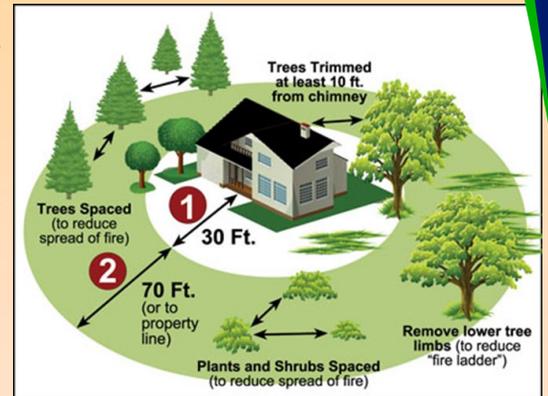
Address: 2 Crest Road
Applicant: Paul Foley & Mike O'Mahony
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Council Discusses WUI

Catastrophic wildfires, such as the 1991 Oakland Hills fire and most recently the 2017 Sonoma and Napa fire, that impact human communities have become increasingly common in recent years. Wildland fire protection for the Town of Ross is regulated by the State of California for those properties that are located within a Very High Fire Severity Zone and by local regulations for properties that are located within a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). A WUI is defined as an area where houses meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland vegetation. A property that is mapped as being within a WUI is required to comply with the California Fire Code related to "Defensible Space" and vegetation management, in addition to compliance with the California Building Code or the California Residential Code WUI construction requirements, which includes fire rated building materials (also known as the "Hardening of Surfaces"). Defensible Space refers to an area 100 feet around the perimeter of structures or developments with the purpose of managing flammable vegetation to reduce the potential for the structure and/or structures to ignite in the event of a wildfire. The intensity of fuel management is prescribed by Public Resources Code 4291 and varies with the feet from the structure being the most important. The Hardening of Surfaces refers to materials and construction methods, such as tempered windows, metal gutters, and fire resistant exterior decking material. For more information on Defensible Space or the hardening of surfaces, please refer to the following link: http://www.readyforwildfire.org/docs/files/File/calfire_ready_brochure_LINOWeb.pdf. ➡

WUI - Cont.

From a local government perspective, the Town of Ross' Municipal Code references WUI regulations in Chapter 18.39, Hillside Lot Permit, Chapter 12.12, Weeds, Trees, and Vegetation, and Chapter 14.04, Fire Code. Relative to a Hillside Lot Permit, WUI compliance is required for properties that are classified as Hillside Lots (e.g., has a 30% or greater slope or partially or wholly located within a Slope Hazard Stability Zone 3 or 4) and for projects that trigger a Hillside Lot Permit. For example, a Hillside Lot Permit would be required for a project that would include a 200 square foot new floor area addition on a property that has a slope of 30% or greater. The addition would need to comply with



the California Fire Code regarding defensible space and vegetation management, in addition to complying with either the California Building Code or California Residential Code WUI construction requirements.

Chapter 12.12, Weeds, Trees, and Vegetation, of the Ross Municipal Code requires property owners to comply with defensible space requirements for those properties classified as a Hillside Lot as previously described.

Chapter 14.04, Fire Code, of the Ross Municipal Code, requires conformance of WUI regulations for those properties that are designated as being located within a Town Council approved WUI map, however, a WUI map has yet to be adopted by the Town Council. As such, at last night's meeting, the Town Council considered three WUI Map options as follows: (1) not adopting a map; (2) adopting a map that would include all Hillside Lot and parcels that are geographically connected to the Hillside Lots; or lastly, (3) a map that would include the entire Town or a map that would include the entire Town less the Ross Common, the Ross School, and the downtown. The Council directed staff to pursue a Municipal Code amendment to Chapter 14.04 in favor of Option 2. Staff will come back to the Town Council at a future Council meeting to approve the WUI map and related code amendments that correspond to Option 2. ■



Online Survey Seeks Input on Pollution



The Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP) is asking residents to complete an online **Stormwater Pollution Prevention & Awareness Survey** to help understand the

public's awareness of potential pollutant-generating activities in Marin County. MCSTOPPP conducts education and outreach to residents to prevent pollution from getting into the storm drains, which flow directly to waterways. The newly released short survey will help MCSTOPPP identify gaps in public knowledge about practices that generate pollutants, hurt water quality, and threaten wildlife that depend on healthy water. The results of the survey will allow MCSTOPPP to target outreach where it is most needed. One of the big contributors to stormwater pollution is pet waste that is improperly disposed and is picked up by stormwater runoff and washed into storm drains or nearby water bodies. By picking up after your pet, you can help protect our local creeks, wetlands, bays and ocean.

To learn more about the many ways to reduce pollutants in our waterways, visit the MCSTOPPP website.

Interim Building Permit Tech



Carol Stenlund

The Town has contracted through Coastland Civil Engineering to have Carol Stenlund serve as the Interim Building Permit Technician overseeing Simone Jamotte's position, until a permanent Building Technician is hired. Carol brings 13 years of experience working in municipalities as a Building Permit Technician and

has spent the last several weeks working with Simone before her departure. After March 15th, Carol's schedule will be Monday through Thursday, 8:00-2:00 pm. She can be reached via email at cstenlund@townofross.org, or by phone at (415) 453-1453 ext. 106.

RECREATION NEWS

Spring registration is open, with a majority of classes starting the first week of April. Ross Recreation is offering quite a few new and exciting classes this session! Introduce your preschoolers and kindergarteners to ballet in our Ballet and Movement classes at St. John's. We are also offering another round of the very popular coding and game design class with Leo of Ross School.



Ross Rec offers a variety of sports programs during the spring including lacrosse for 1st through 4th grade. The lacrosse program focuses on providing a fun environment, which emphasizes camaraderie, sportsmanship and skill development. Practice sessions are held on weekdays and games are held on Saturdays. Ross Rec assembles teams for Saturday games according to age. This is a great opportunity to meet new friends while learning to play the sport of lacrosse.



Additional programs offered this spring include: hip-hop, art, Spring tea party, middle school boxing, soccer K-2, all sports, flag football and Sporty Girls.

Looking for programming during Spring Break? Holly's Hopping' Camp returns and a brand new sewing camp will be offered during the break.

Summer program information will be available in late March.

Come and join the fun! Register for programs at rossrecreation.org.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2018

Mar 5	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 8	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 9	4:00	pm	Filing Period Deadline for June 2018 Election Town Council Candidates
Mar 27	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

APRIL 2018

Apr 2	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Apr 5*	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall (*note special date)
Apr 24	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Apr 25	9:00	am	Special Council Meeting Annual Budget Workshop, Town Hall

MAY 2018

May 7	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
May 10	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
May 12	9:00	am	Ross School PTO Garden Tour, Ross Common
May 22	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
May 28	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Memorial Day

RECURRING EVENTS

Thursdays, May - October Ross Farm Stand - *BEGINS MAY 3rd*, 11:30 am - 7:30 pm, Ross Common

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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