

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 13 | Issue 4 | April 2019

### Mayor's Corner



Beach Kuhl  
Mayor

While our April Town Council meeting has a relatively light agenda and the school spring break will find many of us out of town for a week, there will be a lot going in Town this month. Articles in this

Morning After will provide more details about some of them.

First on the agenda is that the Council will honor fifteen of our citizens who serve the Town in various capacities, some representing us on County-wide organizations and others on Town advisory committees and less formalized efforts to keep the Town safe and functioning well. Their names are in an article; when you see them, you should thank them.

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### Thank You to Ross Community Volunteers

The Town recognized and thanked its appointed community volunteers for their dedication and service at the April Council meeting, presenting each with a gift of appreciation.

The Town of Ross and the Town Council participate and serve on numerous committees and boards. The Council recognizes the opportunity to engage its dedicated and talented members of the Ross community and through a selection process, has appointed residents to serve on these committees over the years.



(From left) Chris Martin, Brian Salmen, Paul Sagues, Tom Gaffney, Teri Dowling, Gil Fleitas, Patti Shimek

#### Volunteers and Committees

**Josefa Buckingham, Mark Fritts, Mark Kruttschnitt, Stephen Sutro, Dan Winey:** *Advisory Design Review Group (ADR)* - assists property owners in the early design review process by providing professional review and input of design-related projects prior to going before the Council.

**Gil Fleitas, Patti Shimek**-(for past years of service) - *Disaster Council (DISCO)* - works with the Town and its residents to plan, prepare and assist in responding to threats of disasters of any type during the critical 72-hour to 1-week period following an emergency.

**Chris Martin** - *Ross Valley Flood Zone No. 9 Advisory Board* - objective is to substantially reduce the frequency and severity of flooding throughout the Ross Valley Watershed, in an economically viable manner while prioritizing public safety and minimizing environmental impacts.

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## Mayor's Corner - continued from Page 1

In what seems to be an ever-continuing parade of construction activities, in preparation for the Bolinas Avenue drainage project, PG&E, the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) and the Ross Valley Sanitary District each will be relocating facilities to accommodate the work. They started work this week.

MMWD is anticipated to begin in April replacing nearly one mile of old fire flow deficient pipe with new 8-inch and 6-inch pipe on Baywood Avenue, Crest Road, and Wellington Avenue.

The County is starting work on traffic signal synchronization on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard extending from the 101 intersection to the Eastern boundary of our Town. This is expected to ease the journey by reducing congestion and speeding up travel. We shall see.



Marin County Supervisor Katie Rice will be visiting our post office on Friday April 26 from 8:30 to 10:00 am to meet with any resident who wants to talk with her. If you haven't experienced Katie's friendly, down-to-earth approach to the issues that concern us all, this is the ideal way to do so--while picking up your mail.

And finally, please enjoy your Passover or Easter holiday. ■

### Ross Volunteers - continued from Page 1

**Mason Flemming, Zach McReynolds** - *Financial Investment Advisory Committee* - provides finance and investment advice to the Council Finance Committee.

**Teri Dowling** - *Marin County Commission on Aging & Age-Friendly Marin* - promotes the dignity, independence and quality of life of seniors through advocacy, information, programs and services.

**Tom Gaffney** - *Marin Emergency Radio Authority* - provides a crucial radio communications delivery system between public agencies in order to efficiently and effectively facilitate critical (emergency) communications.

**Paul Sagues** - *Marin Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District* - protects the community from mosquitoes and vector-borne diseases by utilizing cost-effective, environmentally responsible integrated vector management practices.

**Bruce Hart, Brian Salmen** - *Ross Valley Paramedic Authority Board (RVPA)* - provides paramedic services to residents and visitors of the Ross Valley.

These individuals have kindly volunteered their time and energy and contributed to the betterment of the Ross community. The Town offers its sincere thanks and appreciation for providing an invaluable service to the Town. Thank you for a job well done! ■

### Wildfire Preparedness Seminars

Ross residents may be interested in the following free upcoming wildfire preparedness meetings being offered for Marin residents.

**“Living with Fire in Marin County”**  
(sponsored by Ross Valley Fire Department, Marin County Fire & FireSafe Marin) - this seminar is offered on several dates including:

**Monday, April 29, 2019, 6:00-8:00 PM**  
Fairfax Women’s Club, 46 Park Road, Fairfax

**Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 6:00-8:00 PM**  
San Anselmo Town Hall, 525 San Anselmo Ave, SA

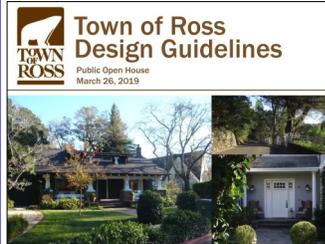
To register for either of these dates or to see other available dates go to: [www.firesafemarin.org/events](http://www.firesafemarin.org/events). Registration is encouraged but not required.

**“Marin Community Wildfire Forum”**  
Wildfire Community Preparedness Day  
(sponsored by County of Marin, FireSafe Marin, Marin County Fire Chiefs & NFPA Firewise USA)

**Saturday, May 4, 2019, 10 AM - 12 PM**  
Embassy Suites, San Rafael

## Design Guidelines Update

The Town of Ross, with the help of the Town's consultant, Winter & Co., is in the process of developing Design Guidelines. The purpose of the Design Guidelines is to implement a General Plan implementation planning project to promote excellent design for residential development. Specifically, the



Design Guidelines are expected to provide architectural and design related information, set expectations, and provide guidance/suggestions to residents, design professionals, and prospective residents regarding topics such as building scale, building location, site design, building materials, and landscaping. The Ross Town Council, the Advisory Design Review Group (ADR Group), and Town staff will also use the Design Guidelines to review and evaluate development applications to ensure any development would be in keeping with the tenets of the General Plan.

The Town has been conducting an iterative public process that has included two public workshops. The first workshop was held May 8, 2018. The Town's consultant provided a presentation and attendees participated in four activities that were crafted to provoke thought and community input on what is important to the Town relative to its look and feel. Based on the results of the May workshop, Draft Design Guidelines were developed. The second public workshop was held March 26, 2019. This workshop introduced the release of the Draft Design Guidelines and was intended to provide a community dialogue to elicit input. The Town's consultant provided an overview and explanation of how to apply and use the Draft Design Guidelines.

What is important to know about this review process is that **it is not too late to review the Draft and provide your comments** (e.g., is the document easy to use, do you agree with the design concepts that characterize the Town, are there missing design concepts?). Your input and feedback is critical to the creation of the Design Guidelines to ensure remodels and new residential development are compatible with the existing built environs. You can access links to the public workshops and the Draft Design Guidelines at the following link: <https://www.townofross.org/planning/page/design-guidelines>.

Feedback may be provided to Heidi Scoble at [hscoble@townofross.org](mailto:hscoble@townofross.org), or at the April 23, 2019 Advisory Design Review Group meeting, or at the June 13, 2019 Town Council meeting.

## ANNUAL SPRING FLING EASTER EGG HUNT Saturday, April 20

**Easter Egg Hunt and Family Fun  
Hosted by the Ross Auxiliary  
Saturday, April 20, 10:00 to 12:00 noon  
on the Ross Common**

**Grab your Easter baskets and join  
the Easter egg hunt, face painting,  
balloons and more!**

**Egg Hunt starts at 11:00 am**

## Farm Stand Returns in May

The Farm Stand, operated by Jim Baum, will begin its fifth year on the Ross Common on Thursday, May 2nd (weather permitting). The seasonal farm stand will run every Thursday, May through October, from 11:30 am to 7:30 pm.



The Farm Stand has been in Marin County since 2003, and represents the cooperative efforts of over 20 Marin Organic Farms from the communities of Bolinas, Inverness, Lagunitas, Nicasio, Point Reyes, San Anselmo and Tomales. The variety of their produce is a wonderful reflection of the local micro climates, and speaks of the local expertise of family run farms. The Farm Stand features seasonal, local and organic produce and products, pasture raised eggs, baked goods, local artisan foods, natural and pasture raised grass-fed meats (beef, pork, and lamb) and wild, line-caught locally sourced seafood.

Mr. Baum operates a permanent Farm Stand in Forest Knolls at 6700 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Thursday thru Monday, and will also be in downtown San Anselmo on Fridays May through October. Go to [www.communityfarmstands.com](http://www.communityfarmstands.com), if you would like to receive the e-newsletter highlighting the weekly products available.



# RECREATION NEWS

Ross Valley Little League opening day parade was held on Saturday March 16. Opening Day was delayed a week due to the persistent rain the Bay Area has experienced this winter and spring.

The turf on the fields were restored during the winter including new turf added where the Ross Valley Sewer District project had impacted the existing fields.



Ross resident Al Stoll with his Giants team



The section of Ross Common located between Ross School and the pathway near the street will be closed until June. Renovation is underway for the area impacted by the Ross Valley Sewer project. Renovation includes reseeding the area to help restore the grass areas under the trees.

Summer Fun for Everyone  
Ross Recreation 2019

ROSS RECREATION DEPARTMENT

**6 WEEKS of CAMPS**

Camp Safari (3-5 years)	Plus...LEGO Camp
Kindergarten Camp (Incoming Kinders)	Fishin' Camp
Martin Explorers (6-9 years)	Tennis
Sporty Girls (6-11 years)	Holly Hoppin'!
Top Gun Sports (7-14 years)	Academic Enrichment
Adventure Camp (8-15 years)	Art Camp...and more!

415-453-6020  
RossRecreation.org

Register for Ross Recreation programs at [www.rossrecreation.org](http://www.rossrecreation.org).

## MMWD RATES PROPOSAL

The Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, at 7:30 pm (220 Nellen Avenue, Corte Madera) to consider proposed increases to the water service rates, fees and charges. The public is encouraged to attend. MMWD is notifying property owners subject to the proposed increase and water customers of the proposed changes.

The proposed rate changes include two main components:

- 1) An increase to the water use and fixed charges on your bimonthly water bill, **averaging a 4% annual revenue increase**, to keep pace with inflation and fund MMWD's ongoing operations and maintenance.
- 2) A new Capital Maintenance Fee (CMF) to fund investments in critical water system projects for clean, reliable water; projects to reduce wildfire risk on Mt. Tam; and may be used to fund debt service on existing and future capital projects. The annual CMF will be between \$163 to \$246 for most homes.

Each year the District evaluates its infrastructure needs, programs, and operations and maintenance costs for the ensuing fiscal year. The District hired an independent rate consultant to determine how best to recover projected operating and maintenance costs over a five-year period and projected capital and wildfire management costs over a 10-year period. Based on this evaluation, the District has determined that rate increases are necessary to: recover current and projected costs of operations and maintenance, including increases in purchased wholesale water; fund capital improvement infrastructure improvements needed to provide safe and reliable drinking water; maintain the operational and financial stability of the District; manage wildfire risk on watershed lands; and avoid operational deficits and depletion of financial reserves.

# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## APRIL 2019

Apr 4*	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall ( <i>*on special date</i> )
Apr 5	11:00	am	RHS/Moya Library Annual Fundraiser Luncheon, MAGC Livermore Room
Apr 20	10-12	pm	Spring Fling Easter Egg Hunt, Ross Common ( <i>see Page 3</i> )
Apr 23	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Apr 24	8:30	am	Special Council Meeting Annual Budget Workshop, Town Hall

## MAY 2019

May 6	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
May 9	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
May 27	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Memorial Day
May 28	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

## JUNE 2019

June 10	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
June 13	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
June 25	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

## RECURRING EVENT

Thursdays, May - October    Ross Farm Stand, 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
Bldg Inspection Hotline:	415.453.1453 x170	Ross Valley Fire Dept	415.258.4686
Planning	415.453.1453 x121	Town Manager	415.453.1453 x107
Police	415.453.1453, Option 2		

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 320, Ross, CA 94957  
 Street Address: 31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Ross, CA 94957

Visit us at [www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org)



We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email [llopez@townofross.org](mailto:llopez@townofross.org)

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