

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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### Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Brekhus  
Mayor

The holidays are always a great time to be in Ross. Our very own Ross Property Owner's Association does a great job of making the Town look festive and the Ross Auxiliary Winter

Sing tree lighting celebration is a charming part of the Town tradition. I was delighted to be asked to speak and partake in the tree lighting festivity. Thank you to both groups for adding to the Town's holiday spirit.

This month the Council will look at the noise ordinance with consideration of generators in particular. Our Town Manager will also do a recap of "lessons learned" from the power outage event, with a goal of becoming more prepared

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### PG&E Power Outage - Lessons Learned



This year PG&E implemented Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) measures designed to reduce the potential for fires such as occurred in northern California in 2017 and 2018. Ross experienced a townwide power outage for 3 days beginning the evening of Saturday, October 26.

As a result of the recent PG&E PSPS event, the Town Staff looked at what actions we can take to help our residents for future PSPS events.

The Town sent out a number of townwide messages about the PSPS before and during the event based on the information we received from several sources. The Town has heard positive feedback about the messages sent but are always seeking feedback on how to improve our messaging. For future events, with the help of an additional generator, we will establish Town Hall as a charging station during business hours and at the Police Department at night and weekends.

Regarding cell service, the Town currently leases space to three different cellular towers on Town property. We are working with those providers to have emergency power during power outages. AT&T, T-Mobile, and Sprint-PCS have all indicated they plan to have a fleet of mobile generators available to provide emergency power to priority sites throughout California. T-Mobile deployed an emergency generator to their site at the fire station a few days after the last PSPS and AT&T indicated that they were in the process of deploying a generator to the site.

The traffic signals on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard at Lagunitas, Laurel Grove, and Bolinas can currently operate for 5-10 hours on backup battery power. The Town will be replacing older batteries at Lagunitas and Laurel Grove and adding an additional backup power supply with the ability to hook up to a generator if needed, to keep these two signals operating longer. During a PSPS, stop signs will be deployed at these intersections as soon as backup power becomes unavailable.

Town staff is working with the Disaster Council citizen group (Ross Ready) with researching the feasibility of hand held radios for neighborhoods to use for communication in PSPS and other emergency events. The Town will continue working on preparations for these events and other emergencies. Resident feedback is always welcome.



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in the future. We will need to evolve in light of these events and strengthen our disaster preparedness to prevent further harm. I appreciate Mayor Pro Tem Julie McMillan's efforts and the contributions of volunteer resident Gil Fleitas, on that front.

In January, the Town Council will host other Towns and Cities and Members of the Board of Supervisors for a meeting of the Marin County Council of Mayors & Councilmembers and a presentation on Marin County local government reform of pension and other post-employment benefits. If you are interested in this topic, I suggest you look at the report by going to this link: <http://mccmc.org/wp-content/uploads/Pension-OPEB-Committee-Report-Final-9-13-19.pdf>, which is found on the Marin County Council of Mayors & Councilmembers website, mccmc.org.



Also, important, I want to mention that the Town staff has been doing a great job of running this Town. Under Town Manager Joe Chinn's management, we have recruited and retained a really excellent and dedicated Town staff. The feedback I hear is that residents feel the Town is more responsive, and better run than in years past and I could not agree more. On behalf of the Town, I want to say thank you to the Town staff and happy holidays.

And to all residents, I hope you enjoy the holidays. ■

### March 2020 Election Update



The March 3, 2020 Ross General Municipal Election will have three Council seats and a Measure on the ballot put to the voters of Ross.

The filing period to file nomination papers to qualify for a Council seat closed on December 11th. Rupert Russell, one of the three Council incumbents, is not running for another term. There was much interest from residents about potentially running for a Council seat. The following residents filed nomination papers and are confirmed candidates for the March election:

- Elizabeth Brekhus
- Charles "Bill" Kircher, Jr.
- Beach Kuhl
- Mary McFadden
- Sina Shekou

Also being put to the voters in March will be a Initiative Measure submitted by the Branson School to increase the allowable student enrollment from 320 to 420 students.

We hope everyone gets out and votes next year in this important election.

### Town Seeks Volunteer for Mosquito & Vector Control Board

The Town is seeking an interested resident to fill a board vacancy on the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District Board of Trustees. The Town is very grateful to Paul Sagues, who has been serving on this Board for Ross since 2015. Thank you Paul, for your excellent service!



To serve on this committee, you must be a registered voter and reside in Ross. The new appointee's term would be from January 2020 to December 2022. The Board meetings are held monthly on the second Wednesday of each month at District Headquarters in Cotati. Each member is compensated \$100 per Board meeting for travel expenses (not to exceed \$100 per month). If you would like to be considered for this appointment, please provide a brief statement with any relevant background you may have in serving on boards or commissions along with a resume. Submit your response via email to Linda Lopez at [llopez@townofross.org](mailto:llopez@townofross.org) by December 20, 2019. The Council will review submissions at the January 16th Council meeting and select an appointment at that time.

## PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the December Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [December 12th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the January 16, 2020 Council meeting.

**Address: 39 Fernhill Avenue**  
**Owner/Applicant: Branson School/Town of Ross**  
**Council Action: No action was taken to modify the use permit.**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-0 (Russell absent)**

**Address: 26 Woodside Way**  
**Owner: Valentin Alexandrov**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-0 (Russell absent)**

## Holiday Closure for Town Hall Offices

It's that time of year! Town Hall offices of Administration, Building, Public Works, Planning, and Recreation will be closed for the holidays **December 24th through January 1, 2020**. If you have business needs with these departments, please address them before or after the closure. Police and Ross Valley Fire will remain open 24/7.

During the closure if you need an Encroachment Permit, please email [publicworks@townofross.org](mailto:publicworks@townofross.org), and someone will respond to you. To schedule a Building Inspection during the closure, contact Building Inspector Eric Robbe, at (415) 453-1453 ext. 170.

We will reopen for business Thursday, January 2nd. Happy holidays everyone!

## Good Neighbor Reminder to Residents

The Town continues to receive complaints on **Gas Leaf Blowers** and **Trash Receptacles** left out after trash pick up. We want to remind residents of Town regulations that prohibit these per Ross Municipal Code (RMC).

**Gas Leaf Blowers** - RMC [Section 9.20.030](#) prohibits Gas Powered blowers use in almost all circumstances. The Public Works Director may issue a permit for a Gas Powered blower in some very limited circumstances: 1) Special hardship due to infirmity or a parcel greater than one acre; 2) Limited hours of use; and 3) Contiguous neighbors do not object.

Power-driven machinery (electric blowers and such) for yardwork may only be used Mon-Fri, between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, and not on Saturday, Sunday or holidays. Power-driven machinery may be operated by the homeowner themselves for yardwork on Saturdays between 9:30 am and 4:00 pm. Power mowers only may be operated by gardeners on Saturdays between 9:30 am and 4:00 pm.

Any violations of these regulations may be reported to the Ross Police Department.



**Trash Receptacles** - Trash and recycling receptacles must be brought in and stored away from public view on the same day that collection service was provided by the Marin Sanitary Service. The Town has very specific regulations regarding the storage and location of trash and recycling receptacles. See Ross Municipal Code [Section 6.12.130](#) for details.

Thank you for doing your part.



## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Safety During the Holidays

The Holidays are upon us and to help stay safe and enjoy these times, the Ross Police Department wants to remind you of some simple safety tips. Please take extra care during the holiday season to avoid becoming a victim. First and foremost, always keep your home and your car locked. Thieves take advantage of opportunities - please don't make it easy for them.

**Driving:** Give yourself some extra time to get to your destination. Weather is bad and there are more drivers due to shopping traffic. Not everyone has their mind on driving, so use extra care and caution.



**When shopping:** Try to park in well lighted areas. Do not leave packages in sight inside your car. Always lock your car, even to go into a store for a minute. Never leave your purse, wallet, laptop in plain view in your car. If you have

items being delivered to your home, try to have someone there to receive them.

**Travel:** Please don't advertise your travels on social media. Contact Ross PD to do vacation checks when you are away.

Stay safe and Happy Holidays.  
Ross Police Department

## RECREATION NEWS

The Ross Recreation youth basketball program is conducting clinics in December at Ross Gym. The clinics emphasize skill development in preparation for the winter basketball practices and games, which begin in January. The Ross Recreation program has 300 players from K through 4<sup>th</sup> grades and a total of 38 teams. Both boys and girls practice afterschool during the weekdays and play games on Saturdays. The program is conducted at both Bacich and Ross Gymnasiums. Skill Instruction is provided by longtime Ross Recreation staff members Jean Marc Schafer and Sandrick Jackson.



Youth Basketball Clinic at Ross Gym



Ballroom Dancing at Ross Gym

One of the most popular winter programs is ballroom dancing, which is held on Mondays in Ross Gymnasium. The program provides instruction in dancing including the Merengue, and Waltz for over ninety 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls.



Ross Common Fields will be closed December to early March for annual maintenance work.

**Winter Program registration is open. Register for classes at [www.rossrecreation.org](http://www.rossrecreation.org).**

## Zero Waste Marin Holiday Tips

Reducing waste this holiday season begins with thoughtful shopping and gift giving. Please remember to shop smart and waste less this holiday season. Here are a few tips:

**Give an Experience** - Give friends and family members a memorable and personalized gift that requires little or no packaging. Here are some ideas: **For the gourmet** - Dinner at a special place or gift certificate for their favorite restaurant; **For dancers**- Dance class coupon for salsa, tango, swing or belly dance; **For the movie critic** - Tickets to the movies.

**Sustainable Gift Wrap** - When wrapping your holiday gifts, consider using reusable gift bags, baskets, tins or fabrics.

**Never Burn Wrapping Paper!** It is illegal to burn wrapping paper. Use non-foil based paper and remember to toss it in your recycling bin or save for reuse next holiday season. Remember items that contain glitter are not recyclable.

**Christmas Tree Recycling** - Dec 30, 2019 – Jan 17, 2020 put tree on curb on your regular yard waste pick-up day for Marin Sanitary Service. Trees over 6ft must be cut in half. Go to [Zero Waste Marin](http://www.zerowastemarinfo.com) for more information.

# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## DECEMBER 2019

Dec 12      6:00    pm      Council Meeting, Town Hall  
 Dec 24-31    --      --      Town Hall offices closed for Christmas/New Year's holiday

## JANUARY 2020 - Happy New Year!

Jan 1            --      --      Town Hall offices closed for New Year's Day  
 Jan 16\*        6:00    pm      Council Meeting, Town Hall (*\*note date change*)  
 Jan 20            --      --      Town Hall offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday  
 Jan 28         7:00    pm      Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

## FEBRUARY 2020

Feb 1                                      Save the Date! Ross Auxiliary Winter Dinner  
 Feb 13            6:00    pm      Council Meeting, Town Hall  
 Feb 17            --      --      Town Hall offices closed for Presidents Day  
 Feb 25            7:00    pm      Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall  
 Feb 27            8:00    am      Council Meeting - Strategic Workshop, St. John's Church

## 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 x116	Town Manager	415.453.1453 x107
Police	415.453.1453, Option 2		

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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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