

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Brekhuis
Mayor

One of the things I love about Ross is the way Ross residents value community and take the time to get to know their neighbors. The Ross Auxiliary Winter Dinner, held on February 1st, is a perfect example of a community event that brings residents together. This year, 146 guests attended 10 homes hosted in the private residences of Ross residents, after a cocktail reception at the Marin Art & Garden Center. The theme was "Fly Me to the Moon." The event raised money for the on-going Pixie Park renovation. Congratulations to co-chairs Yolande Heller and Jenny Skinner Robinson, for organizing a successful dinner and fundraiser!

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Ross Age-Friendly Data Released

Teri Dowling, the Town's Age-Friendly representative, presented to Council information from two reports that the County recently released on older adults in Marin County: 1) 2019 County of Marin Area Agency on Aging Older Adults Needs Assessment Study (*this report will be released in the coming months*); and (2) [2020 County Age Friendly Report](#) which focuses on recommended actions to be taken over the next several years to support an Age-Friendly Marin.



By 2025, one-third of Marin's population is expected to be age 60 or older.

2019 County of Marin Area Agency on Aging Older Adults Needs Assessment: Five of the most frequently indicated concerns by older adults in Marin were identified: 1) Climate change; 2) Disasters such as fire, flood or earthquake; 3) Affording healthcare; 4) Financial security; and 5) Losing memory/cognition. Among those 75 years or older, another major concern was crime, financial abuse and scams.

2020 Marin County Age Friendly Report: Feedback from more than 2,000 Marin County residents and community leaders has been incorporated into a new County of Marin action plan that puts forth a framework to make Marin more age-friendly. The County estimates that half of older adults need assistance at some point, resulting in a need for more services from government agencies, nonprofits, friends, and family. At the same time, Marin is ranked No. 1 on the list of California's healthiest counties, resulting in people living longer lives. About 28% of Marin residents are 60 years old or older, a figure 10% higher than the average California county, making Marin one of the oldest counties in the Bay Area. The share of older adults in our community is expected to increase and reach 35% by 2025 and grow to estimated 38% by 2030. Seventy-one Ross residents (10%) 60 years of age and older participated in this survey. Two of the needs identified by Ross residents are disaster preparedness and more local activities geared to older adults.

The following is demographic information for Marin County and the Town of Ross from the American Community Survey data (2013-2017).

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The Ross Auxiliary has two presidents, Laura Delaney Nichol and Caitlin G. Fisher. (I don't know when they decided two presidents is better than one, but that was a brilliant idea.) The Ross Auxiliary hosts community building events and fundraises for local projects. It is open to new residents, and is a great way to get to know people in the Town, especially for those people who do not have children at the school. If you are interested in joining, please contact Caitlin at Caitlin.geier@gmail.com and Laura at Lauradnichol@gmail.com for more information.



The Ross Auxiliary also hosts an annual spring event called the Spring Fling, which includes family fun activities such as cookie decorating and bubbles and egg hunt for children. This year it will be on Sunday, March 29 from 10 am – 12 pm at the Ross Common.

We are lucky to live in a community that has so many community-building events. In the coming months the Town will look to add a Ross Recreation program for seniors in Town to meet for lunch on a regular basis. I hope senior residents will join this program, as we want to make sure residents continue to feel connected to the Town and each other, irrespective of age. ■

Age-Friendly Data Released

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The data will be updated once the 2020 Census is completed.

Town of Ross (2,311 total population)

- **60+ Population:** 768 (33% of the population)
- **Living Situation:** 96% own their own homes
- **Income:** Median household income is \$199,531; mean household income \$317,725; 2.9% live at or below the Federal poverty level
- **Race:** White 91.4%

Marin County (259,666 total population)

- **60+ Population:** 72,684 (28% of population/by 2030 38% of the population)
- **Living Situation:** 74% own home, 24% rent, 45% live alone
- **Income:** At or below Federal poverty level: 6%
- **Race:** Caucasian 90%, People of color 10%
- **Ethnicity:** Hispanic/Latino 5%

The Town of Ross received its Age-Friendly community designation in September 2019, joining 8 other Age-Friendly cities/towns in Marin. The next step is to develop an Age-Friendly plan specific to Ross. We would like to invite any Ross resident interested in helping the Town develop its Age-Friendly plan, to contact Teri Dowling at mtdowling55@gmail.com. ■

Five-Year CIP Projects Discussed

Town staff and Council discussed the various projects that are being proposed in the updated Draft Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the Town. Capital improvement projects involve permanent structural improvement or the restoration of some aspect of the Town's property that will either enhance the property's overall value or increases its useful life. The CIP is intended to be dynamic in nature and will change from year to year as priorities, needs and funding change. The Five-Year CIP is a planning tool used by the Town to identify facilities and infrastructure improvements which will be considered for development over a five-year time frame.



Roadway projects selected for the Town's rehabilitation program are prioritized based on a condition-based assessment of the roadways, resulting in a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) for each street with the Town-maintained roadway system. The roadways included in the CIP for next fiscal year are the rehabilitation of Bolinas Avenue, which is a joint project with San Anselmo, and the rehabilitation of Thomas Court.

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PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the February Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [February 13th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the March 12, 2020 Council meeting.

Address: 205 Lagunitas Road
Owner: Lagunitas Country Club
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Kuhl recused)

Woodhaven Road Recognized as Firewise Neighborhood



Congratulations to residents of Woodhaven Road for officially being recognized as a Firewise USA neighborhood - the first in Ross! Nine homes consisting of 18 residents, worked together on developing a risk assessment and action plan (which included vegetation management, evacuation routes, and educational outreach). They worked closely with the Fire Inspector and FireSafe Marin in this process. They are now a candidate to receive a Firewise grant in 2020 to be used towards making Woodhaven Road even safer during an emergency. This process allowed the residents to get to know each other as neighbors. Two fun block parties were held and residents that have lived there for 30+ years finally met one another. They are now connected to Ross Ready and plan to receive radio communication training. Well done!

The Firewise USA program encourages local solutions for safety by involving homeowners in taking individual responsibility for preparing their homes from the risk of wildfire. Using a six-step process, communities develop an action plan that guides their residential risk reduction activities, while engaging and encouraging their neighbors to become active participants in building a safer place to live. Go to <https://www.firesafemarin.org/firewise> to learn more.

Winship Park is in the process of becoming a Firewise community and we strongly encourage other Ross neighborhoods to join together to become Firewise.

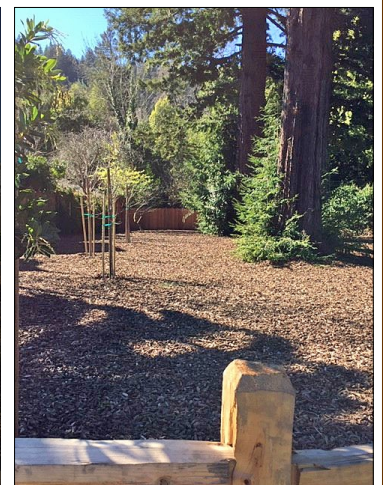
6 Redwood Project Completed

Work has been completed at the 6 Redwood site including the removal of the ivy and fencing adjacent to Ross Common. The result has opened up a dramatic view of the redwoods and palm tree on the site. Ross Common visitors now have a majestic view of the redwoods and additional plantings that were hidden behind the overgrown ivy and cyclone fence.

6 Redwood Drive is part of the Town-owned Ross Common which was purchased on July 1, 1911 from Annie S.E. Worn to be held, owned and used by the Town as and for a public park. The former residence that was on the 6 Redwood portion of the Ross Common was rendered uninhabitable as a result of a fire which occurred in February



2015. The Council voted to incorporate the space into the Ross Common park which would be consistent with the original purchase of the land.





5-Year

CIP Discussed

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The CIP includes a Laurel Grove Safe Routes to School project to be designed and constructed over the next two years that will provide a new pedestrian pathway on Laurel Grove from Sir Francis Drake to Canyon Way and will include some widening and reconfiguration of the roadway to accommodate a safe pedestrian route. The estimated project cost of \$700,000 will be partially funded by a \$400,000 Safe Pathways to School grant.



Bridge and drainage projects include the Winship Bridge replacement project, which is on track to be fully funded by the Highway Bridge Program (HBP) and some Marin County Flood Control Flood Zone 9 funding, is in the final stages of environmental analysis and construction is expected to occur in 2021/2022. In the next couple of years, the Town's drainage improvement projects will be smaller, localized replacement projects which are primarily identified in consideration of public safety and frequency of failure.

The public safety building and the Town Hall were originally constructed over 90 years ago and some of the buildings on the Town Civic Center site are physically and functionally obsolete and require significant dollars to rehabilitate or re-build new. In the next year, the Town will begin a Town Facility Master Plan for the Civic Center site which will provide the facilities goals and priorities, site analysis and program information, illustrative site plan (with multiple concepts reviewed in the process), phasing, and costs associated with the facility development. These processes will include significant community engagement and meetings to develop policies and facilities that best meet the needs for Ross.

In the past six months the Town completed two park projects in the rehabilitation of Natalie Coffin Greene Park and the landscape improvements to 6 Redwood connecting it to the rest of the Common. Next fiscal year, the Town will be conducting a landscape improvement plan for the Common with construction occurring within the next couple of years. ■

RECREATION NEWS

The University of California held it's annual youth basketball day on Saturday, February 1st at the Cal men's basketball game versus Oregon State. Representatives from the Ross Recreation youth basketball program attended the game and were treated to a last minute win by the host Bears. Cal recognized those in attendance on the main scoreboard and youth players were allowed to shoot free throws on the court after the game.



Haas Pavilion welcomes Ross Recreation

In addition to the Ross Recreation teams, players and parents from St. Sebastian CYO were in attendance escorted by Ross Public Works staff member, Anthony Alcozer. Anthony coaches the St. Sebastian team, which includes his son.



Anthony Alcozer & daughter Taylor on the court

Registration for Spring programs is open. Programs include art, science Lego STEM class, youth lacrosse, sporty girls, ballet hip hop dance, father/daughter dance, intro to manners, First Step soccer and more.

Ross Recreation is currently taking applications for **Camp Counselors** for Ross Recreation summer camps. If you are interested in working one of the camps, please contact Ross Recreation at rossrec@rossrecreation.org for further information.

Register for programs at www.rossrecreation.org.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2020

Feb 10	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
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

MARCH 2020

Mar 3	7am-8:00pm		Election Day - Ross Municipal Election, Ross School (<i>polls open 7:00 am</i>)
Mar 9	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
Mar 12	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 24	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 29	10am-12pm		Ross Auxiliary Annual Spring Fling, Ross Common

APRIL 2020

Apr 16*	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall (<i>*note date change</i>)
Apr 23	8:00	am	Special Council Meeting Budget Workshop, Town Hall
Apr 28	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
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		

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



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

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