



THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Brekhus
Mayor

The Town's property at 6 Redwood that was used as a rental property until it burned down in a fire has now been opened to the Town Common. The ivy covered fence enclosing the property

has been taken down - probably to the dismay of some of the Town children who loved to climb the fence notwithstanding the sign directing them not to climb the fence. I expect residents will really enjoy seeing this property now added to the Common. The redwood trees and the palm tree on the property are particularly beautiful and add to the charm of our Town Common.

For those of you who do not know, this property was deeded to the Town, along

Continued on Page 2

Update on Flood Control Projects

County moving forward with new Corte Madera Creek project EIR:

The Marin County Flood Control District (MCFCD) is preparing a Request for Proposal to acquire a consultant to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the Corte Madera Creek project. This project was presented by MCFCD in partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) last year and involves various flood control projects from the Lagunitas Bridge all the way down to the College of Marin. The MCFCD/USACE partnership has been put on hold and MCFCD will be managing the project with the local agencies and stakeholders with USACE playing only a minor role in the permitting process. A major component of the project could involve reconstructing Frederick Allen Park between the post office and the tennis courts but the actual scope of work has not yet been determined. The removal of the Fish Ladder is likely to be a component part of any final scope of work.

Winship Bridge reconstruction project environmental document released for public comment:

The Town proposes to replace the existing Winship Avenue Bridge, which is well beyond its design service life and is in generally poor structural condition, with a new bridge that would improve the hydraulic capacity of the creek and be consistent with current roadway and sidewalk design standards. The Winship Bridge Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been completed and is available for a 30-day public review and comment period. The comment period is from January 3, 2020 to February 3, 2020. Town Council will consider approving the IS/MND at the February 13, 2020 Council meeting. At that same meeting, Council will also consider a Design Review of the Project as part of the project approval process. Design Review is required to allow the new construction of the bridge to be located within 25-feet of a creek, waterway, or drainage way.



The document is available on the Town's website by clicking [here](#), and hard copies are available for the public to review at the Public Works Department.

Continued on Page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

2. Employee Recognition Program
3. Planning
3. Ross Auxiliary Winter Dinner
3. Farewell to Heidi Scoble
3. Marin Sanitary Service Rates
4. Candidates Night
4. Recreation
5. Calendar



with the rest of the Common, by Annie S.E. Worn in 1911, and a \$30,000 bond was taken out by the Town to pay for it and improvements to the Common. Our research into the history of this sale showed that the entire property was stated to be used for the Common. The Town Council spent a significant amount of time deliberating how best to use the property given the destruction of the prior residence. The decision to absorb the area into the Common will guarantee that the property will be enjoyed by residents for generations to come.

The Winship Bridge environmental review report was issued and there will be an opportunity for public input on that. The replacement construction of this bridge will undoubtedly be an inconvenience but I know that many residents want to see progress on flood improvements and so I expect many people will welcome this work even if it is inconvenient.

There is a lot of community discussion around the Branson Measure F and the Ross Town Council election of three seats. It is great to have the public engagement on both of these important Town decisions and I am enjoying hearing from people who really care about our community. The Ross Property Owners Association is hosting its candidates' meeting on January 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Livermore Room. As a resident and elected official I want to thank the RPOA for creating this opportunity to speak to residents. ■

Employee Recognition Program

The Town recognized three employees with a token of appreciation for their years of dedicated service: Police Officer Ken Nicholas (10 years); Recreation Manager Mike Armstrong (5 years); and Recreation Specialist Maya Talmage (5 years).



Ken Nicholas

Ken Nicholas started his police career in Fairfield as a Police Cadet and Community Service Officer. After graduating from Solano Community College, Ken was hired as a dispatcher for the Fairfax Police Department. After a short time, he was hired at the Ross Police Dept and served here for a couple of years. He transferred over to the Fairfax Police Dept for 8 years before returning back to us in 2009. He is our traffic specialist and helps with out traffic surveys for speed enforcement. He is also is our department liaison with the District Attorney's Office for DUI enforcement. In his time off Ken plays guitar and is a pretty decent snowboarder.

Mike Armstrong has had a life-long career in Recreation and Parks Departments beginning in 1979 as Supervisor of the Community Sports and Aquatics Division at the Richmond Recreation and Parks Department. He followed that position with Associate Director of Recreational Sports at the Koret Health and Recreation Center, founding Dean of Students and Athletic Director for Stuart Hall High under the Sacred Heart School in San Francisco, and finally Director of Facilities at the Schools of the Sacred Heart before retiring in 2014. The Town of Ross brought him out of retirement to oversee the transition of the newly formed Recreation Department. His expertise in recreation and his knowledge of field maintenance have been an invaluable asset to the Town.



Mike Armstrong



Maya Talmage

Maya Talmage joined Ross Recreation as Recreational Clerk in 2014 and was responsible for assisting with program registration. Maya was subsequently promoted to Recreation Specialist and is responsible for overseeing the youth sports programs and staffing. Maya also assists in developing instructional class programs and monitoring the Ross Recreation website and program registrations. She was instrumental in the transition of the former Ross Recreation to a Town of Ross Department. She provides information and support for participants in the Ross Recreation programs and is an essential resource for program information.

Thank you Ken, Mike and Maya! The Town is grateful for all that you do!

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the January Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [January 16th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the February 13, 2020 Council meeting.

Address: 53 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard
Owner: Gregory Finch & Karen Kuwatani
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 1 Winding Way
Owner: David Riley & Sarah Friar
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Heidi Scoble to Leave Ross



Heidi Scoble
Planning & Building
Director

The Town of Ross will be losing Planning and Building Director Heidi Scoble, who has announced her resignation effective January 24th, to take a position with the City of Sausalito.

Heidi began in Ross as a Planning Manager in 2015. She was promoted to Planning and Building Director in December 2018, with the merging of the Planning and Building Departments. During her tenure, she brought over 90 planning projects before the Council, modified numerous zoning and other code and administrative amendments, and oversaw the monthly Advisory Design Review Group meetings. Her knowledge of Planning is extensive and many Ross residents benefited from it and will miss her expertise and guidance. The Town thanks and wishes Heidi all the best in her new position. She will definitely be missed. The Town is beginning the recruitment process to replace her.

Ross Winter Dinner

Saturday, February 1, 2020



The Winter Dinner is a longstanding Ross tradition organized by the Ross Auxiliary. It is a unique opportunity for members of the community to enjoy an intimate dinner together while raising money toward a worthwhile cause. The

evening begins with a cocktail party held at Marin Art and Garden Center, followed by guests dispersing and enjoying a catered dinner at a designated home within Ross. Various members of the community will graciously open their homes to host these lovely dinner parties.

Purchase tickets at:
[Marin Art & Garden Center website](#)

Proceeds from the Winter Dinner this year will be directed towards the renovation of Pixie Park at the Marin Art and Garden Center.

Contact rossaux@magc.org with any questions.

Marin Sanitary 2020 Rates

The Council approved the Marin Sanitary Service (MSS) rate increase of 4.44% for 2020. The Town of Ross participates in a Franchisor's Group comprised of San Rafael, Larkspur, portions of Marin County and the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District. This year, R3 Consulting Group, Inc., has determined the 4.44% rate increase is appropriate



for ratepayers in Ross which include residential homeowners, apartment owners, commercial property owners, and other businesses and tenants.

The MSS solid waste service collection, processing, disposal, and recycling service cost in Ross increases from \$39.60 per month in 2019 to \$41.36 per month in 2020, for the 32-gallon cart service. The proposed 2020 rates are not available for other jurisdictions yet, so this summary compares proposed Town 2020 rates to other jurisdictions' 2019 actual rates, which will certainly increase. Using this comparison, the Ross proposed rate of \$41.36 is slightly lower than the Marin County average of \$43.91 and slightly higher than the Bay Area average which is \$38.62.



Flood Control

continued from Page 1

Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance Updated

The Council adopted an Ordinance to update the Town's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. The updates provide clarification for substantial improvement projects and construction within a Special Flood Hazard Area, establish more conservative finish floor elevation requirements above the FEMA 100-year base flood elevation, and update the elevation datum. The updates are part of an effort to improve the "Community Rating Service" (CRS) rating which FEMA uses to establish flood insurance rate discounts for policy holders within participating communities. Ross' current CRS rating provides a 10% discount to flood insurance premium rates.

FEMA assists with raising of Ross residential structure along Corte Madera Creek:

The Council approved a Nonconformity Permit, Design Review, and Demolition Permit to allow for a major remodel and elevation of a single-family residence located within the 100-year floodway along Corte Madera Creek. The structure, located at 53 Sir Francis Drake, was constructed in 1949 with the main floor located below the 100-year base flood elevation (BFE) and has suffered inundation and flood damage during several moderate storm events. The project proposes to elevate the living spaces several feet above the BFE to eliminate future property losses due to flooding. The project is one of 16 existing "Repetitive Loss" properties throughout Marin County to be 75% funded by a Federally-funded project. ■

Candidates Night for Ross Town Council Election

Thursday, January 23, 2020

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Marin Art & Garden Center
Livermore Room

(sponsored by Ross Property Owners Assn.)

RECREATION NEWS

The Ross Recreation winter program offers a wide variety of activities. One the activities offered in the winter for grades 1 through 5 is Futsal. This is a variant of soccer played with a smaller, heavier ball on a hard indoor surface such as a basketball court. Dan Ferrando, longtime instructor for Ross Recreation,



offers this program through the Next Step soccer program. Futsal is where many of today's soccer players develop their soft touch on the ball. Due to the fast and quick playing surface, players have to develop their gentle touch to properly control the speed of the ball. The Futsal program runs through March in the Ross School gymnasium.



The Kids Club program is offered after school in the Community Room located next to the Ross Recreation office at Ross School. Daily activities include arts and crafts, games and outdoor play weather permitting. Recreation Instructors Rhonda and Mallory Beren have conducted the activities of Kids Club for the past several years and are responsible for the warm and caring environment the students enjoy on a daily basis. Parents can register their children for Kids Club by contacting Jeneane Wagner at the Ross Recreation office.



Register for programs at
www.rossrecreation.org.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 (<i>*note date change</i>)
Jan 20	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Jan 23	7:00	pm	Council Candidates Night, Marin Art & Garden Center Livermore Room

FEBRUARY 2020

Feb 1			Ross Auxiliary Winter Dinner (<i>see Page 3 for details</i>)
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	7-8:00	pm	General Municipal Election - Ross School
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

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



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

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