

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Julie McMillan
Mayor

We continue through the COVID-19 pandemic. County Health Officer Matt Willis has slowed re-openings of several business categories to contain the spread. He implores us to continue to be vigilant:

Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Stay home. Practice social distancing. Given this, it's gratifying to see so much work being accomplished in our Town by community members, Town Council members, and Town Staff. (Next month I will showcase Town Staff work.)

Community members: Last week Roger Dickerson and Gil Fleitas held a successful drill to test emergency radios with RossNet volunteers. Earlier this

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Corte Madera Creek Project - Phase 1

The Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (MCFCD) presented preliminary design concepts to the Town Council and the public for



the removal of the wooden "fish ladder" and portions of the concrete channel between the Post Office and the tennis courts in Ross. The "Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project, Phase 1" could see a reconfiguration of Frederick Allen Park to provide multiple benefits including flood risk mitigation, ecosystem restoration, improved fish passage, and recreational enhancements.

The primary goal of the Project is to reduce the frequency and severity of flooding and to protect human life and property in the communities of Ross and Kentfield by enhancing and improving Corte Madera Creek. The MCFCD staff and environmental consultants held public workshops on June 25 and June 30, 2020 to provide the public with the opportunity to view and comment on the Draft Project design and concepts. The MCFCD will use the feedback received from the public and Town Council to develop a project description for the Environmental Review process. As currently proposed, the Project elements include removal of a wooden fish ladder behind the Post Office, modifications to Frederick Allen Park including removal of portions of the existing concrete channel and natural channel restoration and redesign of the park features and landscaping, construction of new floodwalls, installation of a storm drain pump station in Kentfield, and construction of improved fish pools.

The Town of Ross has a key role in the Project which includes participating in the development of the project description of the proposed modifications to Frederick Allen Park for the Draft EIR, Advisory Design Review of Frederick Allen Park final concept designs, and the review, approval, and issuance of grading and building permits for all construction within Town property. The current schedule requires that the Final EIR is adopted by the Marin County Board of Supervisors in Summer 2021, construction begins in Spring 2022 and is completed by Fall 2022.



week, FireSafe Marin, with funding from the new Marin Wildfire Protection Agency (MWPA), sponsored two chipper days for residents. The Ross Property Owners' Association and Advisory Design Review Group continue to work to enhance our Town.



Chipper Days in Ross

Town Council: Councilmember Elizabeth Brekhuis finished as President of the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers (MCCMC). In late June, Councilmember Brekhuis and I participated in a session regarding renaming Sir Francis Drake Boulevard with elected officials from the County, Larkspur, San Anselmo and Fairfax. Councilmember Bill Kircher attended the Association of Bay Area Governments General Assembly; he joined Marin Clean Energy, promoting sustainable alternative energy. Councilmember Beach Kuhl has been attending Transportation Authority of Marin and MCCMC Legislative Committee meetings. He and Councilmember Brekhuis, both on the Ross Valley Fire Board, are working with the Fire Department on defensible space inspections and preparing for evacuation exercises. Councilmember Elizabeth Robbins serves on the MCCMC Economic Recovery Committee, formed in April, to help Marin towns recover from the COVID-19 economic devastation. I have been participating in MWPA board meetings and MCCMC Climate Action meetings.

Please stay safe, support one another and **be vigilant**. This too shall pass -- but it's going to take much longer than any of us originally anticipated. ■

Mike Armstrong to Retire

The Town will be bidding a fond farewell to Recreation Manager Mike Armstrong who is retiring at the end of July. He was recognized at the July Council meeting for his many accomplishments since joining the Ross Recreation Department in 2014.



Mike Armstrong
Recreation
Manager

Mike started his career in Parks & Recreation Departments in 1979 and in 2000 started working for the Schools of Sacred Heart when he was Dean of Students, Athletic Director, and Director of Facilities. The Town brought him out of retirement to oversee the transition of the newly formed Recreation Department. Mike has done an outstanding job building the department and providing high quality recreation services to the Ross community. The Recreation Department has been greatly affected by COVID-19 but Mike successfully found creative ways to continue programs in a safe and responsible manner. His expertise and knowledge of sports, parks, education, field maintenance and anything related to recreation have been invaluable assets to the Town. We wish him all the best in his retirement. He will be greatly missed.

Time Limits for Dogs on the Ross Common During COVID-19

The Town Council passed a Resolution temporarily prohibiting dogs on the areas of the Ross Common that formally allowed for dogs, from 9 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday in order to enable the Ross School and Ross Recreation to utilize a greater portion of the Ross Common during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dogs on leash will be allowed to walk on the outer pathway on the Common during this timeframe. And as a reminder, dogs are always prohibited on the playing field portion of the Common at all times.



The Ross School requested the Town consider authorizing the School to utilize additional areas of Ross Common in order to facilitate social distancing. Similarly, Ross Recreation seeks to utilize certain areas of Ross Common in order to facilitate and support social distanced recreational activities. The Shelter in Place Order required

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PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the July Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [July 9th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the August 13, 2020 Council meeting.

Address: 5 Madera Avenue
Owner: Ann & Chuck Stevens
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (McMillan recused)

Address: 70 Ivy Drive
Owner: Charlotte & Doug Sweeny
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Time Limits For Dogs on Common

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the closure of all in-person learning at schools and in-person recreation programs. Recent changes to Health Orders now permit schools and recreation programs to operate in-person but under stringent



social distancing requirements due to the risk of COVID-19 spread. In addition, there is an overall emphasis from public health officials that outdoor spaces are safer to utilize than indoor spaces. As

such, Ross Recreation classes are more spread out on the Common in groups of 12 participants over the summer. Similarly, when Ross School opens in August, the School will be utilizing outdoor areas to a greater extent due to COVID-19. Due to the School's proximity to the Common, use of the Common would greatly aid in enabling the School to operate while ensuring greater public health and safety.

The grass area across the street from the Ross Common (next to the Post Office) is an alternative for dog owners to utilize. ■

Generator Policy Approved

Catastrophic wildfires have unfortunately increased in occurrence in recent years and utility transmission lines have been identified as the cause of many such events. In response, PG&E implemented a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) program which includes the deenergizing of portions of the electrical grid during high fire severity weather events. Marin County has experienced several such PSPS events, including an event beginning October 26, 2019, in which the Town of Ross lost power for three days. PG&E has been taking steps to improve the electrical grid to reduce the frequency and scope of PSPS events, but it can be assumed that additional power outages will occur in the coming years.

The Town Council met on Thursday night to outline a policy on the use of generators during PSPS events and other emergencies during which people lose power. In order to help inform the Council's decision, a town-wide online survey ran from June 22nd to June 30th. Nearly 250 respondents took the survey. While the majority of respondents (55.6%) preferred that there be no time restrictions on the use of generators, 43.7% were in favor of some type of limitation. Of survey-takers that favored a time limit on operation of generators, the most popular window of permitted operation was 6am to 9pm.

If the use of generators is permitted during an emergency like a PSPS, generators (permanent or portable) should be allowed to operate during the following hours*:

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
No time restrictions			137	55.6%
7am to 7 pm			21	8.5%
6am to 9pm			34	13.8%
6am to 11pm			23	9.3%
Only during daylight hours			7	2.8%
Only from sunset to sunrise			3	1.2%
Other			20	8.1%
No Responses			1	<1%
Totals			246	100%

The Council voted to adopt an Operation of Generators Policy, which can be found [here](#). The policy does not include time restrictions on the use of generators during power failures or PSPS events.

MMWD Project at Phoenix Lake

Marin Municipal Water District's (MMWD) contractors began construction operations at their landslide repair project above Phoenix Lake last month. The purpose of the Ross Reservoir Landslide Repair Project (project) is to stabilize the landslide area before it causes further structural damage or loss of Ross Reservoir and its piping system. If the project were not constructed, additional movement of the landslide could result in a total loss of the 1-million gallon Ross Reservoir, which serves approximately 20 percent of the MMWD service area.

As the project enters a new phase, construction traffic on the access road to Natalie Coffin Greene Park and the dirt maintenance road to Phoenix Lake will dramatically increase beginning next week, causing safety concerns for cars, hikers and bicyclists who use the road to access the park and the Tamalpais watershed trails. The project requires hauling up to 7000 cubic yards of dirt to the project site on large dump trucks over the next six weeks, requiring approximately 24 truck trips per day or roughly one truck every 20 minutes on average while construction is in progress.

Hikers and bicyclists should be aware that the construction vehicles and dump trucks will have priority use of the roadway and safe access to the park by the public will be limited at times. It is strongly suggested that people avoid using the access road until construction is completed. The construction impacts are mainly 8AM to 5PM Monday – Friday but the schedule may change at any time. Please contact MMWD for all information pertaining to the project at 415 945-1560 or visit marinwater.org/constructionupdates.

Respond to Census Today

The Ross community has one of the lowest self-response rates in Marin! It takes less than 5 minutes of your time to complete the Census. Census data guide how more than \$675 billion of federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year, so being counted is very important.

- Go to <https://my2020census.gov/> to complete online
- Complete by phone at 844-330-2020

To learn more go to <https://marincensus2020.org/>

RECREATION NEWS

Ross Recreation in-person summer camps began on July 6 at Ross Common and Natalie Coffin Greene Park. Three sections of the popular Top Gun sports camp and a section of the Sporty Girls Camp are being conducted on Ross Common. Hoppin' Holly outdoor nature camp is being held at Natalie Coffin Greene Park utilizing the recently renovated 3 Bear Hut and the picnic area. The first camp sessions run from July 6 through July 24. The second session will run from July 27 through August 14 and includes our Gone Fishing Camp, Lego Robotics, and two sections of the Top Gun sports camp.



In addition to the in person camps, Ross Recreation also offers virtual camps including Lego Stem Concepts, Chess and Marin Explorers.

All camps are operating under guidelines issued by the county of Marin Covid-19 protocols. Camps are limited to twelve participants per camp for each three week session. Instructors will stay with the same group throughout the three week intervals and camps will not intermingle with each other.

If you have any questions about Ross Recreation programs please email: rossrec@rossrecreation.org.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2020

Jul 9 6:00 pm Council Meeting *(virtual meeting)*
 Jul 21 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting *(virtual meeting)*

AUGUST 2020

Aug 13 6:00 pm Council Meeting *(virtual meeting)*
 Aug 18 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting *(virtual meeting)*

SEPTEMBER 2020

Sep 7 -- -- Town Hall offices closed for Labor Day
 Sep 10 6:00 pm Council Meeting *(virtual meeting)*
 Sep 15 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting *(virtual meeting)*

CONTACT US

Administration	415-453-1453 x105	Police	415-453-1453, Opt. 2
- llopez@townofross.org			
Building	415-453-1453 x106	Public Works Director	415-453-1453 x115
- breher@townofross.org		- rsimonitch@townofross.org	
Bldg Inspection Hotline	415-453-1453 x170	Recreation	415-453-6020
- erobbe@townofross.org		- rossrec@rossrecreation.org	
Planning/Building Director	415-453-1453 x121	Ross Valley Fire Dept	415-258-4686
- pstreeter@townofross.org			
Planner	415-453-1453 x116	Town Manager	415-453-1453 x107
- mweintraub@townofross.org		- jchinn@townofross.org	

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



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