

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 | Issue 3 | March 2020

Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Brekhus
Mayor

As many of you know, we are still waiting on final election results. As there are still more ballots to count, we can only provide preliminary results at this time (see article Page 2). The

Town will certify the results next month and any changing of the guard will occur at the next meeting.

One rotation is known and that is that Council Member Rupert Russell is retiring.... again. Demonstrating our commitment to recycling, we asked Rupert to return to the Council after Carla Small resigned, to fill in for the remainder of her 2-year term. Rupert graciously accepted, and we were able to resume Council business without missing a beat.

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Winship Bridge Project - Next Step

Town Council approved a Resolution adopting the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Winship Bridge project. The approval of the IS/MND and MMRP will allow the Project to proceed to the 80% design level, with construction planned to begin in 2021. The new replacement bridge is being designed to ensure consistency with current roadway and sidewalk design standards and improve water conveyance capacity within San Anselmo Creek by eliminating the arches and center bridge pier in the waterway widening the opening by approximately 6 feet and raising the elevation of the bridge deck approximately 4 feet. A single span, cast-in-place or precast concrete slab type bridge is proposed, which would also provide for a travel way width of 20 feet and a 4.5-foot walkway on the north side. Other project features would include new curb, gutter, sidewalk, and accessible ramps between Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Winship Avenue intersections inclusive. As part of the project, the Ross Valley Sanitary District will relocate and update the existing 6-inch gravity sewer line that is currently within the existing bridge deck through trenchless construction methods.



The IS/MND identifies several impacts to the surrounding neighborhood that will require mitigation measures, as described in the MMRP, to be implemented and enforced by Town staff throughout the construction process. Construction related noise and vibration impacts as well as pedestrian and vehicular traffic disruptions that will impact local residents are included. Although the proposed replacement bridge design will improve the flow capacity of the creek in the immediate and upstream reaches of San Anselmo Creek, several property owners who live downstream of the bridge expressed concern about the potential for increased water surface elevations on their properties if the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction (SAFRR) project is completed upstream. The mitigation measures to protect the homeowners from these impacts are described in the Environmental Impact Report for the SAFRR project that was certified and adopted by the Marin County Flood Control District in 2018.

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Rupert, I know I speak for everyone in saying, we love the way you pronounce the word "garage." And we thank you for agreeing to serve a second time around, and on behalf of the entire Town, your volunteer work on our behalf is admirable and to be commended.

I am grateful to serve on this Council with you and others and I know I am not alone in feeling this way. It has given me an opportunity to get to know residents I would not otherwise have known, to dive deep into issues of local importance that I might otherwise have observed from a distance, and to give back to a community that has given so much to me. Thank you, Rupert, and to all members of the Council for your gracious service and best intentions. We wish you a happy retirement.



Finally, I hope you all stay safe during these uncertain times. If the Town gets any information appropriate to pass on to you, we will do so as our Town staff is monitoring the virus updates very closely from the County and State. ■

Council Member Rupert Russell Commended



Rupert Russell

The Town Council commended and thanked outgoing Council Member Rupert Russell who was presented with commemorative gifts for serving a second term of office on the Council. Russell served previously on Council from 2010-2014. He was appointed in June 2016 to fill the two-year remaining term of outgoing Council Member Carla Small, and was then re-elected in 2018 to fill the two-year remaining term of Council Member Katie Hoertkorn. His willingness to return to Council to fill the remaining terms of outgoing Council members is greatly appreciated!

Council member Russell has been a staunch advocate for consistent application of Town rules and regulations to all concerned and believes this is an essential element to all being treated fairly and equitably. He has also been a strong supporter of flood control having experienced flooding of his home in 2005.

Council Member Russell's term will officially end once the March 3rd election results are certified by the County Registrar and incoming Council-elect members are sworn into office.

Preliminary Election Results of March 3, 2020 Election



The ballots for the March 3, 2020 Town of Ross election are still being counted as we go to press. The preliminary election results indicate the following potential winners based on the votes counted thus far. For Council seats, five candidates ran for Council to fill three seats. The three names listed are in order of highest votes received.

Town Council	Measure F
Elizabeth Brekhus	Yes = 58.74%
Beach Kuhl	No = 41.26%
Charles "Bill" Kircher, Jr.	

The County Registrar has until March 31, 2020 to complete and certify the election results. You can follow the results which will continue to be updated weekly (usually) on Wednesdays and Fridays at <https://www.marincounty.org/userdata/RV/Results.pdf>, until all the votes are counted.

ANNUAL SPRING FLING

Hosted by Ross Auxiliary

Sunday, March 29

10:00 - 12 noon

Ross Common

Join the family fun which includes cookie decorating, face painting, balloon art and bubble play.

Easter egg hunt begins at 11:30 am - be sure to bring your Easter basket. All activities free.

Mimosas, juice and water available for purchase.

Coronavirus Update

The Town of Ross is continuing to monitor and coordinate with the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding COVID-19 (novel coronavirus). The HHS has been issuing news releases to keep the public informed as the news regarding this pandemic is changing daily. You can view the HHS's news releases at <https://www.marinhhs.org/coronavirus> for the latest information.

The best way to reduce the risk of becoming infected is to practice good hygiene:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating, after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing; use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap & water is not available;
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or upper sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze;
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands;
- Stay home from work or school if you have a fever or are feeling sick;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces with household sprays and wipes.

Visit the [Marin County coronavirus webpage](#) to review answers to frequently asked questions. Individuals can contact Marin HHS with nonmedical questions about the coronavirus by calling (415) 473-7191 weekdays between 9:30-noon and 1:00-5:00 pm or by email at COVID-19@marincounty.org. Also see www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

Resident Still Needed for Mosquito & Vector Control Board

Is there an interested Ross resident available to fill a board vacancy on the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District Board of Trustees? The Board consists of representatives from all jurisdictions in Marin and Sonoma County, but currently, Ross is not represented on this Board.

To serve on this committee, you must be a registered voter and reside in Ross. The new appointee's term would be through 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 email Linda Lopez at llopez@townofross.org and provide a brief statement for consideration by Council. We hope a resident will step forward for this important post!

Five-Year Financial Forecast

The Town staff presented a five-year financial forecast to the Town Council on March 12. A financial forecast assists the Council and Town management in understanding the Town's ability to fund the current level of services being provided and determine if it is likely to be sustainable in the future. The good news is the forecast shows the current level of services is fundable over the next five years with some ability to also provide additional funding to capital projects in that time. The Ross voters passage of the public safety parcel tax measure (Measure K) in November 2016 and the Town's numerous steps to reduce future expenses such as pension and retiree health care costs have enhanced the Town's financial sustainability for the future.

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Five-Year Financial Forecast

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The largest financial challenge in the future will be how to fund the replacement of existing Town facilities such as the outdated and deteriorating public safety building. At the meeting, Town staff also discussed plans for how to sustain service levels when the next recession occurs. Financial planning is critical in our efforts to deliver effective and efficient services to the Town residents in a financially responsible manner. ■



Resilient Neighborhoods: Be Part of the Climate Solution

RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOODS



LESS CARBON MORE COMMUNITY

If everybody lived like we do, with our affluent Bay Area lifestyles, **FIVE EARTHS would be required!** 65% of local carbon pollution comes from our household decisions and consumption. Resilient Neighborhood Climate Action Teams undertake carbon-reducing actions that make a difference by empowering citizens to do something about climate change, lower their bills, and strengthen their communities. To date this group has already reduced 8,181,515 pounds of annual CO2 emissions – like taking 1,121 Marin households off the grid permanently! The program shows how to build resilience by: 1) Decreasing dependence on fossil fuels; 2) Conserving resources; 3) Fortifying the local economy; and 4) Supporting local agriculture. We are working to form a Climate Action Team in Ross, and will invite you to participate in a free workshop series. Stay tuned for more information coming early this fall. In the meantime, to learn more about Resilient Neighborhood Climate Action, go to <https://www.resilientneighborhoods.org>.

RECREATION NEWS

The Ross Recreation basketball program held the final games of the season on Saturday, February 29. Bacich gym hosted the games for Kindergarten and 1st grade participants. Ross Gym hosted championship games in boys and girls 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades. Many parents and friends enjoyed watching the final games of the season. This year the program had over 300 participants in grades K through 4.



2nd grade girls championship game action

Ross Valley Little League held the annual opening day parade on Saturday, March 7. The parade started on Ross Common and proceeded to Bacich field for opening day ceremonies and games. Despite a light rain, the



2nd grade girls championship team "Sparks"

parade went on and the participants braved the elements. **PLAY BALL!**



Ross resident Jon Chi with Ross Valley Little League Giants

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. Register for programs at.



The Cubs riding in style!

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

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2020

Mar 3	7am-8:00pm	Election Day - Ross 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
Mar 29	10am-12pm	Ross Auxiliary Annual Spring Fling, Ross Common (<i>see Page 3</i>)

APRIL 2020

Apr 16*	6:00 pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall (<i>*note date change</i>)
Apr 19	10am-2pm	Pixie Park Spring Fair, Marin Art & Garden Center
Apr 23	8:00 am	Special Council Meeting Annual Budget Workshop, Town Hall
Apr 28	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

MAY 2020

May 9	9:00am-5pm	2020 Ross Garden Tour, Ross Common
May 11	7:15 pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
May 14	6:00 pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
May 25	-- --	Town Hall offices closed for Memorial Day
May 26	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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