



# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 13 | Issue 5 | May 2019

### Mayor's Corner



Beach Kuhl  
Mayor

There are two County-wide organizations that our Town helps support financially with Town contributions of \$26,400 between the two programs, which you may not know about. One is the County Homeless Committee. Although we do not see these people on the streets of our town, we all encounter them when we are in neighboring communities. Each municipality has a representative on the committee. Ross' representative is Council Member Julie McMillan.

The basic thrust of the program is to get the individuals into housing and there provide rehabilitation and training to enable their reentry into community life. The program operates low-income housing

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### 6 Redwood - Ross Common Update

Over the past few years there has been much discussion over what to do with "6 Redwood Drive." 6 Redwood Drive is the 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.



As you may have read in the past, the residence that was on the 6 Redwood portion of the Ross Common was rendered uninhabitable as a result of a catastrophic fire which occurred February 28, 2015. Since the fire, the Town Council conducted multiple public meetings to discuss various options for the repair, reconstruction, or establish an extension of the Ross Common. At the May 10, 2018 Council meeting, the Council voted to pursue not reconstructing the residence and to leave the area vacant with minor landscape and site improvements to be discussed at a future meeting. The reasons stated by Council members in support of this option included fiscal responsibility, that the Town is not in the business of building/managing housing, and that a passive park would be consistent with the original purchase of the land.

Consistent with Council direction on May 10, 2018, the proposed project is to remove the chain link and 6-foot tall wood fence and the overgrown vegetation that separates the Ross Common from the 6 Redwood Drive site, to open the property up to and incorporate it into the park. The vegetation is considered to be invasive and has grown over and enveloped the chain link and wooden perimeter fence. Mulch and a weed barrier would be placed on the ground over much of the 6 Redwood Drive site and irrigation would be installed to water/maintain the three large redwood trees as recommended by the project Arborist. A four-foot tall split rail fence is proposed going from the palm tree adjacent to Redwood Drive across the existing drive entry and along the east side of the site. The three large redwood trees on the site will be maintained, protected and enhanced by the project and several new trees will be planted to replace four non-native cherry plum trees that are in poor to fair condition that are being removed in the plan. As a courtesy, the Town will consult with the property owner of 8 Redwood Drive regard-

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assistance programs involving both the individuals and landlords. Portable shower service is provided every week in San Rafael, Novato and Sausalito. Using them as an entry point for other services, a caseworker talks to and counsels people using the showers. The Marin County Housing Authority has developed a program to provide low cost housing through Federal Section 8 grants which assist tenants and also ensure that landlords receive financial protection addressing issues such as physical damage and loss of rental through nonpayment or vacancy. Through a combination of these type of programs over 100 chronically homeless individuals have been housed in Marin over the past two years with overall chronic homelessness down by 28% since 2017.

The other County-wide program we support is the Major Crimes Taskforce. Although we fortunately see little crime in Ross, efforts to shut down a significant drug trafficking ring culminated recently with an arrest here. As a community I believe we can find satisfaction in looking beyond our borders to assist with these types of programs. ■



### Update on Three Bear Hut

After several weeks of rain delays, significant progress has been made on the reconstruction of the Three Bear Hut at Natalie Coffin Greene Park.



Because of the historical significance of the structure, the structure is being rebuilt utilizing as much of the original wood material as possible. All of the log components of the structure have been either repaired or milled from newer redwood and the hut is being reassembled using some of the same hand work and techniques used

by the original Civilian Conservation Corps in the mid-1930's. Once the construction of the hut is completed, the picnic area will be completed with the installation of several new picnic tables, bench seating, and a new paved accessible pathway serving the picnic facilities. The picnic area is scheduled to be open for use by mid June, 2019. The restoration of the parking area is also planned for rehabilitation in 2020.

### Contract Awarded for Bolinas Avenue Storm Drain Project

The Council awarded the construction contract for the Bolinas Avenue Storm Drain Improvement Project to Maggiora & Ghilotti, Inc. The Town received seven bid proposals and selected Maggiora & Ghilotti as the lowest responsible bidder.



Bolinas Avenue lies within the jurisdiction of both the Towns of San Anselmo and Ross and has a history of being inundated with flood waters during high-intensity storms more than any other road segment within the Town

of Ross. At the March 2019 Council meeting, the Council approved the design for the project and authorized the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with the Town of San Anselmo for sharing all costs for design, construction, and construction management associated with the construction of the project and the subsequent pavement resurfacing of Bolinas Avenue.

The project is expected to begin in early June and should take approximately three months to complete. Efforts will be made to minimize disruption during the construction. More information on this project will be forthcoming in Townwide emails.

## PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the May Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [May 9th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the June 13, 2019 Council meeting.

**Address: 26 Ross Common**  
**Applicant: Shelley Cahan Interior Design**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 14 Lagunitas Road**  
**Applicant: The Ross Preschool**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

## Where Does It Go, Joe?



WHERE DOES IT GO, JOE?

Marin Sanitary Service has launched a new online tool to take the guesswork out of sorting your garbage.

### **Is it recyclable, compostable, or should it go in the garbage?**

It can be difficult to decide which cart to put material in for proper disposal - rules change, and some information is confusing. The new online and mobile app called "[Where Does It Go, Joe?](#)" named after co-founder and visionary recycling advocate, Joe Garbarino, is a searchable database that boasts more than 300 common household materials and how to properly dispose of them.

### **How Does it Work?**

Just enter a material into the search field and the tool provides instructions on how to properly prepare or clean the item as well as what "stream" the materials should go into: recycling, compostables or garbage. It also allows customers to suggest an item for inclusion in the tool, so the app will become more robust over time. Get more information at [Marin Sanitary Service](#).

## Time to Clear Vegetation



With Spring in full bloom, vegetation - both wanted and unwanted, is sprouting up in our front yards and along our roadways. Per Ross Municipal Code, it is the responsibility of all occupants



and owners of property within the town to trim, remove or destroy all trees, hedges, plants, shrubs or vegetation, which obstructs or impairs the free full public use of the sidewalk area or street in front of their premises. Here are some guidelines to follow:

- 1) Remove all grass, weeds, shrubs, bushes, trees or vegetation growing, or which have grown and died upon property which are a fire hazard or menace to public health, safety or welfare. A tree permit may be required for tree removal (see [Ross Municipal Code Chapter 12.24](#) for tree regulations).
- 2) Branches of trees shall not be permitted to extend lower than seven feet above the surface of the sidewalk area or to extend lower than thirteen feet six inches above the surface of the portion of the street used for vehicular traffic, whether planted in the sidewalk area or upon private property.
- 3) Flowers, shrubs and other growth, with the exception of trees, in the sidewalk area shall not be permitted to exceed eighteen inches in height.

### **Fire Season is Coming - Clear Defensible Space**

Though the grass is still green outside, fire season is just around the corner. Last year's fires were a grim reminder of the importance of maintaining defensible space around your home. Get ahead of the curve and take on the vegetation while it is still manageable early in the season. For those that live on hillside lots, [Ross Municipal Code 12.12.016](#) requires the continual maintenance of defensible space, but every house in Ross is vulnerable if a wildfire erupted nearby. The Ross Valley Fire Department website's [Defensible Space](#) page offers guidance on what steps you can take to create and maintain defensible space around your home to better protect your family and property. We encourage all residents to learn as much as they can on the importance of defensible space and not be caught unprepared should a wildfire threaten the Ross Valley area.



## Corte Madera Creek Flood Project Update

On March 19, 2019, the Ross Valley Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board (FZ9AB) met to discuss the circumstances and implications involved with ending the contractual relationships with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and continue with a locally managed and funded flood control project. At that meeting, the FZ9AB voted to suspend, and not terminate, the relationship with USACE and directed Marin County Flood Control District (MCFCD) staff to move forward with developing a detailed, locally focused project description in partnership with the Town of Ross. With that decision, MCFCD has taken over as the lead agency, however the USACE will still be involved at a regulatory and permitting agency for any work proposed within the channel downstream of the Sir Francis Drake Bridge.

The MCFCD is currently in the process of completing various studies that will assist stakeholders, including the Town of Ross, with the development of a project description that will allow the project to move forward into the environmental assessment phase. These studies include the recent concrete core samplings of the channel in Kentfield (which were done earlier this week) as part of a structural analysis of the concrete channel. A property and tree survey and some topographic mapping is also being considered.

### 6 Redwood Update - *continued from Page 1*

ing the location of the tree replacement plantings.

After reviewing the merits of the project and consideration of public comment at the May 9, 2019 public meeting, the Town Council voted 3 to 2 to approve Resolution No. 2102 approving a Tree Permit and landscape improvements to the Ross Common to passively connect 6 Redwood Drive with the remainder of the Ross Common Park. A copy of the staff report and attachments can be accessed on the website by clicking [here](#). ■

## RECREATION NEWS

On Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> Ross Recreation held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Father Daughter Dance in Ross School Gym. A dance instructor served as host for the event and directed activities throughout the night. Fathers and daughters danced throughout the evening and enjoyed lemonade, cookies, and glow sticks. A photo booth was also provided to capture memories of this fun event.



Ross Recreation is once again offering clinics in field hockey and basketball for middle school girl's grades 6 through 8. Aline Copp will be offering instruction in the field hockey clinic. Aline is a coach at Redwood High and a former player for Harvard. The field hockey clinic will be held at Redwood High on June 2 from 9am to noon. Caren Horstmeyer will conduct the middle school girl's basketball clinic on August 15 & 16. Caren is a former standout player at Redwood High School and the University of Santa Clara. She is also the former Head Coach of the Cal Women's basketball team.



Registration is open for Ross Recreation Summer Camps at [www.rossrecreation.org](http://www.rossrecreation.org). Join the fun!

Summer Fun for Everyone  
Ross Recreation 2019

**6 WEEKS of CAMPS**

Camp Safari (3-5 years)	Plus...LEGO Camp
Kindler Camp (Incoming Kinders)	Fiddler Camp
Marin Explorers (6-9 years)	Tennis
Spooky Girls (6-11 years)	Holly Hoppin'
Top Gun Sports (7-14 years)	Academic Enrichment
Adventure Camp (6-15 years)	Art Camp...and more!

415-453-6020  
RossRecreation.org

# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MAY 2019

May 6	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
May 9	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
May 10	9:00	am	Finance Committee Meeting, Town Hall
May 15	10-3	pm	Explore Marin Art & Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd
May 27	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Memorial Day
May 28	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

## JUNE 2019

June 10	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
June 13	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
June 25	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

## JULY 2019

July 4	11:00	am	Ross 4th of July Parade & Celebration, Ross Common
July 4	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Independence Day
July 8	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
July 11	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
July 23	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

## RECURRING EVENT

Thursdays, May - October    Ross Farm Stand, 11:30 am - 7:30 pm, Ross Common

## 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 x121	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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