

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 | Issue 5 | May 2020

Mayor's Corner



Julie McMillan
Mayor

We all continue to navigate as best we can the COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order, and try to grapple with the pandemic's other immense implications. A few weeks ago some of the restrictions were modified, and we are glad that construction and landscaping services have resumed. We are grateful that our restaurants continue to provide delicious take out service. We are hopeful that other restrictions may be safely lifted soon and that we can begin to return to what will undoubtedly be 'a new normal.' Thank you Ross citizens for following the shelter in place order and helping our county flatten the curve.

Continued on Page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

2. Elizabeth Brekhus Recognized
2. Fire Season - Get Ready
3. Planning
3. Ross Post Office Delivery Info
3. County Development Standards
4. Bolinas Avenue Pavement Project
4. Recreation
5. Calendar

COVID-19 - What's Next?

Thank you Ross residents for hanging in there. We are now in the 9th week of the Shelter in Place Orders and are all learning to adjust to a new way of living during this COVID-19 pandemic. The curve has flattened in Marin County to 15 to 25 new coronavirus cases in the County in each of the last three weeks with three people currently hospitalized. We are grateful that residents and businesses in Ross have taken the Public Health Orders seriously.

The Town continues to closely follow and monitor the Marin County Health Officer's Orders. We anticipate the State and County Orders will be gradually opening up different activities and businesses over time in efforts to keep the community safe. The most recent Order effective May 4th eased a number of restrictions such as:

- All construction projects were allowed to resume as long as the project complies with safety protocols.
- Real estate transactions were allowed to resume but with continued restrictions on open houses and in-person viewings.
- Certain outdoor businesses such as retail nurseries, landscapers, and gardeners were allowed to operate again.

Related to construction time limits, on April 24 the Town issued an Emergency Order automatically extending the time limits of construction projects in Ross from March 17, the date when the first County Shelter Order went into effect until May 4, the date when the new Shelter Order allowed all construction again, plus an additional 30 days. The Emergency Order was ratified by the Council at their May 14 meeting.

It is anticipated that effective May 18th the Marin Order will be modified to allow curbside retail and some related manufacturing and warehouse operations to open for business.

While Town offices are closed to the public, all Town staff can be contacted by phone and email, and most services are available in Building, Planning and the Public Works Departments. Police and Fire are available 24/7. Recreation Department is conducting some classes online. See classes offered at www.rossrecreation.org.

Town Council meetings and Advisory Design Review Group meetings have switched to virtual video teleconference meetings as no in-person meetings are being held during the Shelter in Place Order. The public is welcome to attend these meetings on Zoom. Please continue to be safe and we will stay strong as a community.



I'd also like to recognize and thank every member of our Town Staff for their creativity, flexibility and dedication in addressing this emergency. Under Town Manager Joe Chinn's leadership and round the clock work, our Town has responded to a very challenging situation in a seamless manner.

At last night's meeting, we confirmed appointments of many Town residents to serve on various committees. Thank you to our volunteers for your service to our Town: Gil Fleitas (Ross Ready); Chris Martin (Flood Zone 9 Advisory Committee), Teri Dowling (Marin County Commission on Aging), Tom Gaffney (Marin Emergency Radio Authority), Monique Predovich (Mosquito Abatement), and Brian Salmen and Sally Secor (Ross Valley Paramedic Authority). I'd also like to thank Police Chief Masterson and Tallie Fishbourne for coordinating the many Town volunteers who are assisting those residents who need a little help during this emergency. (If you need help please email Chief Masterson: emasterson@townofross.org). We are very fortunate to have so many who work to support our special community!



I hope you've had a chance to appreciate the beautiful flower baskets around town. These are provided and maintained by the Ross Property Owner's Association, and we thank them for all they do to keep our Town looking good. (If you'd like to help support these and other efforts, please join or renew your RPOA membership by visiting RPOA's newly designed website: <https://rosspropertyowners.com/>.)

Finally, it's hard to believe that fire season in Marin already began on May 1. Please spend a little time now getting your home, yard and family ready. There's some easy tasks to do in only 3 days that can be found in today's Morning After, thanks to FireSafe Marin. For more information and tips about fire preparation, please visit firesafemarin.org. ■

Elizabeth Brekhuis Recognized



At the April Town Council meeting, Elizabeth Brekhuis completed her term as Mayor of the Town of Ross. This marks Elizabeth's second term as Mayor, and we owe her a huge debt of gratitude. In her latest term as our Mayor, Elizabeth presided over 12 Town Council regular and special meetings, along with and countless other informal meetings. She led the Town's Finance Committee. She continues to serve as the President of the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers, and on the Board of the Ross Valley Fire Department. Beyond the large number of meetings and huge time commitment, Elizabeth has done an excellent job as Mayor, thoughtfully guiding us to protect our Town. We thank her immensely for her dedicated service, and we are truly delighted that in March she was reelected for four more years to the Town Council.

Council member Brekhuis was recognized and presented with a commemorative gift at last night's virtual Council meeting.

Fire Season Has Started - Get Your Home Ready in Only 3 Days

It's already here: **Fire season began May 1.** Now's the time to get your home and yard ready. In only 3 days, complete the tasks below, thanks to FireSafe Marin (www.firesafemarin.org). You'll be better prepared for fire season (click on the links below for more tips and details):

Day 1: Clean your roof and gutters.

<https://www.firesafemarin.org/about/news/entry/wildfire-preparedness-week-day-1-clean-your-roof-and-rain-gutters-1>

Day 2: Cut your grass.

<https://www.firesafemarin.org/about/news/entry/wildfire-prep-day2-2020>

Day 3: Clear combustibles within 5 feet of your home.

<https://firesafemarin.org/about/news/entry/wildfire-preparedness-week-day-3-focus-on-zone-zero>

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 14th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the June 18, 2020 Council meeting.

Address: 4 Willow Hill Road
Owner: Jack Coan & Martha Delgado
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Kuhl recused)

Address: 49 Glenwood Avenue
Owner: Miguel & Briana Zelaya
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Ross Post Office - Delivery Info

In response to resident's concerns regarding the Ross Post Office returning packages, we have received some guidelines to follow from the Post Office to ensure that your mail is not returned.

The Post Office collaborates with all delivery services such as FedEx, UPS, etc., which allows those services to deliver packages to the Post Office when they bypass home delivery. Therefore, when ordering online regardless of the delivery method, it is important to address all packages in the following format:

Street Address → **John Smith** ← PO Box
→ **53 Lagunitas Road #450** ←
Ross, CA 94957

The Post Office must have a PO Box number to deliver mail, therefore, the Box number should be on the SAME LINE as the street address, using a # after the street. This is critical for any package that is being delivered by way of the Post Office as companies will often drop the second address line from packages.



Packages must be picked up within 15 days otherwise they are returned to the sender. The Post Office does not keep a list of street addresses for each box number, and do not have the staffing available to look up the information.

Objective Design and Development Standards for Marin County



Communities in Marin County, including the Town of Ross, are working together to ensure that design guidelines for multifamily housing developments maintain a high level of quality and will be context sensitive. An effort is underway to prepare Objective Design and Development Standards. This initiative will result in a toolkit of standards that, when adopted, will provide a clear review and approval process. This will also ensure that the design and aesthetic of developments address topics such as architectural style while accommodating current and future legislation requirements. You are invited and encouraged to participate in the process. Please visit www.marincounty.org/objectivestandards to view an informational video and provide your feedback through an on-line community survey. The survey should take approximately 10 minutes and will remain available through the end of May. Thank you for engaging in this important, county-wide effort.

Oh Baby!

Ross has a new celebrity in Town. Last week Gerber announced it had selected the first adopted "spokesbaby" in its 92-year history. Magnolia Earl of Ross, whose parents are Courtney and Russell Earl, was selected from among more than 327,000 entries submitted to the Gerber website, where families upload photos and videos and share stories for the company's annual photo contest. Started in 2010, the contest is inspired by the photos Gerber has received over the years from people who say they see their babies in the brand's famous original logo.



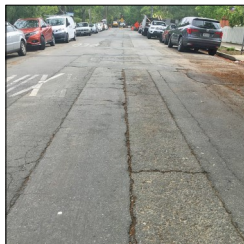
Magnolia Earl
(photo courtesy of Gerber)

The Earl family was awarded \$25,000 plus other prizes. Congratulations to Magnolia and the Earl family!



Bolinas Avenue Pavement Project

The long-awaited pavement rehabilitation work on Bolinas Avenue passed a major milestone this week as the San Anselmo Town Council voted unanimously to approve the final design and authorized their staff to advertise the project to bid, with construction scheduled to begin in July 2020. It has been over 20 years since Bolinas Avenue received any meaningful pavement treatment and with the recent reconstruction of the underground storm drain, water and sewer systems, the pavement condition of Bolinas Avenue is the worst in Ross and is classified as “completely failed”.



The maintenance of the Pavement and storm drain systems on Bolinas Avenue is shared by the Towns of San Anselmo and Ross. In March 2019, the Town Council approved a cost share agreement between the Towns for drainage improvements and roadway rehabilitation. The Town of Ross constructed the storm drain improvements in the summer/fall of 2019. Under the agreement, San Anselmo will construct the roadway rehabilitation and once completed, the two Towns would balance the costs for the two projects and split the costs evenly. The total cost of the pavement project is estimated to be \$1,045,000.

Town staff from San Anselmo and Ross have been working with the Bolinas Avenue Neighborhood Committee to address vehicular speeding and pedestrian safety issues. The project includes maintaining the existing median islands installed in 2013 at crosswalks at Shady Lane and Richmond Road. The project also includes traffic calming measures consisting of speed humps at two locations between Richmond Road and Kensington Road, shoulder islands at the Kensington Road intersection (both sides) and green-backed bicycle “sharrows” throughout. The shoulder islands will be placed in the parking lane on the east side of the intersection, and will not affect available street parking as they are located in a red zone on one side, and adjacent to the curb ramp on the other side. Also, a new fog line (4 inch white stripe) between the parking area and travel lane will create the appearance that the roadway is narrowed when there are no cars parked along the street, and should lower speeds.

RECREATION NEWS

Ross Recreation continues to offer on-line resources during the Marin County Shelter in Place Order for COVID-19. Online classes include Art, Ballet, Hip Hop and Yoga. In addition to the live online classes there are additional links to a wide variety of activities including You Tube videos and virtual field trips. You will also find artwork posted by the participants of the Art with Casey virtual classes.



Summer Program registration information will be updated according to the Marin County COVID-19 Shelter Order, once guidelines are established.

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

Allen Park Tennis Courts are open with the following restrictions:

- Have a face covering with you and wear it when practicable.
- Wash or disinfect your hands prior to entering/exiting courts.
- Each player should only handle their marked tennis balls.
- Stay at least six feet apart from other players.
- Singles matches only.
- No instructional or commercial use.
- Avoid touching your face after handling a ball, racquet, or other equipment.
- Use your racquet/foot to return out of play balls to your opponent.
- Avoid touching gates/benches/nets with hands.
- Stay on your side of court. Avoid switching ends.
- All players should leave the facility immediately after play.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2020

May 7	9:00	am	Special Council Meeting Budget Workshop (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
May 14	6:00	pm	Council Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
May 21	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
May 25	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Memorial Day

JUNE 2020

Jun 16	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
Jun 18*	6:00	pm	Council Meeting (<i>*note special date</i>) (<i>virtual meeting</i>)

JULY 2020

Jul 3	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Independence Day
Jul 4	--	--	4th of July Celebration (<i>may be cancelled due to COVID-19</i>)
Jul 9	6:00	pm	Council Meeting
Jul 21	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group 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	

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