

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Brekhus
Mayor

This month the Town recognized Public Works Superintendent Robert Maccario who has been taking care of this Town for 27 years and we will miss his dedication to the Town. It is

incredible to consider that Robert has maintained our Town, its infrastructure and improvements, its parklands, its streets and all public space. What a massive responsibility. Robert is a well known and universally liked Town employee and on behalf of the Town, I want to say a huge thank you for doing such a fabulous job all these years. Robert informed me that he began during a year that my father was Mayor and said it seemed fitting to him that he would conclude his work with the Town the year

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Three Bear Hut Opening Ceremony



Three Bear Hut, September 10, 2019

After many months of anticipation, Natalie Coffin Greene Park and a restored Three Bear Hut opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to a crowd of approximately 75 people from the Ross community including the third grade classes from the Ross School.

Three Bear Hut had been undergoing major construction for the past six months to restore the historical structure to its original glory. Built in 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Town of Ross purchased it and the surrounding 25 acres for a new park using a generous bequest from Ross resident A Crawford Greene. The park was named after Crawford's wife Natalie Coffin Greene, a Ross native and a staunch conservationist.



Ford Greene (Guest Speaker)

The park restoration project also includes the addition of a new bench seating area, a new permeable accessible pathway and platform, and replacing and adding additional picnic benches throughout the park. We hope the community will enjoy the park for many generations to come.

Guest speakers at the event included Town Manager Joe Chinn, Mayor Elizabeth Brekhus, Ford Greene (grandson of Natalie Coffin Greene), and John Pope (John Pope Construction). Community members who attended received a small commemorative gift.

The Town thanks all who donated and contributed to this project which funded some of the additional amenities in the park: the Emig Trust, The Herbst Foundation through Bruce and Liz Hart, and Boy Scout Henry Pritchard who with other Scouts built the new seating area as part of an Eagle Scout project. The Town also wants to thank John Pope Construction for their craftsmanship and work in restoring Three Bear Hut and rehabilitating the park.

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that I am Mayor. We wish Robert many years of pleasant retirement and hope he will stop by to say hello in the future.

At last night's meeting, we recognized the Cedars, a residential home and school for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that has very impressive and innovative programs. This organization is celebrating its 100-year Centennial. I was surprised to learn that Cedars began in 1919 in the Town of Ross. On behalf of the Town, I want to say that we are proud of the Cedars success and we view the individuals served by the Cedars as important and well-regarded neighbors in our community. Congratulations to the Cedars for its continuing success.

We also encourage residents to read the report that is item 19 on our September agenda, a study commissioned by the Town and Ross Valley Fire Department concerning fire response times and standards. One impetus for the report and study was the desire to know whether the Town needs to maintain its fire department facility. The facilities are in very poor repair, and will have to be replaced at considerable cost, and so the question was, does the Town need to plan on rebuilding its fire station or are we well served by the other Ross Valley fire stations? With this report and information, we have good data to understand whether the expense associated with the building of a new Fire Station is appropriate. We will have discussions about Town Hall and our fire and police building and replacement needs in the future.

If you have any thoughts or concerns regarding the Town, feel free to contact me. One of the nice things about serving on the Council is hearing from residents about what they think about our Town. ■

Town Bids Farewell to Long-Time Staff Member



The Public Works Department has lost a familiar face that countless residents and contractors have come to know over the years. Long-time employee, Robert Maccario, retired on September 5th after 27 years of service.

He began working for Ross in 1992, as Public Works Superintendent overseeing Ross' streets, parks, trees, and facilities. Through the years, he gained a breadth of experience and knowledge of Ross' history which made him a very valued employee. We will miss his quick response and expertise on many Town related issues.

Robert was recognized for his service to the Town with a reception held in his honor outside Town Hall prior to the Council meeting. Following the reception, he was honored at the Council meeting for his many years of excellent service to the Town, and presented with commemorative gifts and well wishes. We thank him for his dedication, hard work, and commitment to outstanding service. We wish him all the best in his retirement, and much happiness with his grandchildren, and with his beloved farm.

Cedars Celebrates 100 Years

Mayor Brekhus presented Cedars staff representatives with a Resolution commending them on their 100-year anniversary. Founded in October 1919 by Cora Myers and Gabrielle Renshaw, Cedars opened with a private school in Ross. Cedars was one of the first residential schools in the western United States to offer individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to build a life in a community based home.



Beginning in 1940, two dormitories were built on the original Ross site at 115 Upper Road now known as the Generoso Pope, Jr. Ross Residences. Over the past century, the organization has continued to grow and thrive with facilities expanded to different locations in Marin County that consist of 10 residential group homes, and includes Cedars Textile Arts Collaborative, Cedars Fine Art Studios, Cedars Community Connections, Artist Within, and the Generoso Pope, Jr. Ross Campus.

Today Cedars is stronger than ever with an unwavering dedication to inspiring creative productive, and joyous lives for its residents. Congratulations on 100 years!

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the September Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [September 12th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the October 10, 2019 Council meeting.

Address: 46 Chestnut Avenue
Applicant: Susan & Harry Neuwirth
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Kuhl recused)

Address: 6 Redwood Drive
Applicant: Town of Ross
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-1-0 (Robbins opposed)

Address: 4 Canyon Road
Applicant: Mary & Chris McFadden
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-1-0 (Russell opposed)

Ross Certified as Age-Friendly



Anne Hinton, AARP Representative, presented a World Health Organization (WHO) Age Friendly Community Certificate to the Town of Ross at the September Council meeting. The Town of Ross is

now a part of a growing global movement of communities, cities and other sub-national levels of government that are striving to better meet the needs of their older residents.

By joining the network, Town of Ross commits to sharing and promoting the values and principles central to the WHO age-friendly approach, by providing age-friendly local environments, and actively participating in the network including the sharing of experiences with other members. The County of Marin is now a WHO Age Friendly county and all the cities and towns in Marin are currently Age Friendly or in the process of becoming Age Friendly.

A big thank you to Ross resident Teri Dowling, who has been instrumental in helping the Town achieve this certification.

Town Welcomes New Employees



Sergeant John Adams

John Adams from the College of Marin Police Department has joined the Ross Police Department on September 8th, replacing Steve Nelson who recently retired. Sergeant Adams began his law enforcement career in 2004 and has served with several local law

enforcement agencies such as Eldridge PD, City College of San Francisco, and most recently with the College of Marin Police Department starting as an officer and moving up the ranks to Lieutenant. He has a wide range of skills that are beneficial to the Ross Police Department including being a Field Training Officer Coordinator, Range Master, Active shooter instructor, Taser instructor, and is certified as a Criminal Investigator (ICI). Sergeant Adams is also in the process of completing the Sherman Block Leadership Institute course and has been an asset to the Ross community for the past several years working as a Reserve Police Officer for the Ross Police Department.

Matthew Weintraub has joined the Planning and Building Department on September 3rd filling the newly created Planner position. Matthew, a current resident of Fairfax, holds both a Bachelor of Arts degree and Master of Arts degree in Geography and has been a practicing planner for over 18 years. Matthew's breadth of experience



*Matthew Weintraub
Planner*

includes both current and advanced planning practices, California Environmental Quality Act analysis, Historic Preservation planning, and geographic information systems (GIS) programming. Previously Matthew has worked as a planner for the Cities of Sausalito, Oakland, Palo Alto, San Francisco, Livermore, and Newport, RI.

The Town is currently in the process of recruiting for an additional Maintenance Worker to fill the position vacated by Robert Maccario. Anthony Alcozer, Senior Maintenance Worker, has assumed much of Robert's duties and can be reached at aalcozer@townofross.org, (415) 453-1453 ext. 163.



Annual Ross Town Dinner

Registration is open for the annual Ross Town Dinner scheduled for Friday, September 27th. Please join us for this Town beloved community event. Enjoy an evening of food and beverage while you dine potluck style with your neighbors on the Ross Common. The Bob Scott All-Star Band returns to play jazz and R&B to compliment this wonderful evening. Bring your own picnic and beverage. We provide tables, linens, chairs and live music.

Date: Friday, September 27, 2019
Time: 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Place: Ross Common
Cost: \$10 per person

There are two ways to register:

1) Register online at:

http://www.rossrecreation.org/ross_dinner.html

(Payment online is by credit card only.)

2) Mail check payable to "Town of Ross" with number of guests attending to: Ross Recreation/Town Dinner, P.O. Box 117, Ross, CA 94957.

RECREATION NEWS

Fall programs began on Monday, September 9. Classes include sewing, ballet, art, hip hop dance, Lego STEM based engineering, Holly Hoppin science, tennis for adults and youth, Adobe photoshop and game design. Programs at Bacich School begin on Monday, September 16.



The Ross Recreation youth soccer program will run through Saturday, November 2. Practices are conducted at Ross Common after school Monday through Friday. Games will begin on Saturday, September 28. All practices and games are held at Ross Common. Emphasis is on sportsmanship, skill development and fun!

Register for Ross Recreation programs at www.rossrecreation.org

6 Redwood Drive Landscape Plan Approved

At the September meeting, the Town Council approved a modification to landscape improvements to the Ross Common to passively connect 6 Redwood Drive with the remainder of the Ross Common Park, and a Variance to allow the construction of an 8-foot tall wooden sound barrier fence that will be constructed adjacent to the common property line between 6 Redwood Drive and 8 Redwood Drive. The landscape modifications will include the planting of more trees, the removal of invasive weedy vegetation, and the construction of new fences. With the landscape plan approved, the Town will be soliciting and collecting bids in the Fall for the construction of the park.

Annual Ross Creek Clean-Up Day Saturday, September 28, 2019 9:00 am - 12 Noon

Join the annual Ross Creek clean-up. Help remove debris and litter from the Corte Madera and Ross Creeks. Meet in front of the Ross Post Office at 9:00 am sharp.

Please wear old clothes, long pants, long sleeves, gardening gloves, and waterproof boots.

Any questions, call (415) 453-1453 ext. 163

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2019

Sep 12	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Sep 24	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Sep 27	5:30	pm	Annual Ross Town Dinner, Ross Common <i>(see Page 4 for details)</i>
Sep 28	9:00-12		Annual Ross Creek Clean-Up Day <i>(see Page 4 for details)</i>

OCTOBER 2019

Oct 7	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 10	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 22	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 31	5:00-9	pm	Halloween - Shady Lane Road Closure

NOVEMBER 2019

Nov 11	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Veterans Day
Nov 12-Dec 6	--	--	Council Candidate Filing Period for March 2020 Election
Nov 14	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 19	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 28-29	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday

RECURRING EVENTS

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



Email

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

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