

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 | Issue 9 | September 2020

### Mayor's Corner



Julie McMillan  
Mayor

Smoke from a record number of California wildfires continues to blanket our skies. We thank firefighters for quickly controlling the West Marin Woodward fire - a reminder to be better prepared (you can

learn more at [www.firesafemarin.org/preparedness](http://www.firesafemarin.org/preparedness)).

Along similar lines, in March Marin voters approved the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA); Ross voters approved this by 73.8%! The MWPA will implement comprehensive wildfire prevention and emergency preparedness throughout almost all of Marin County for the next ten years with:

- Vegetation Management: Reduce fuels and implement cost-effective practices for fuel reduction

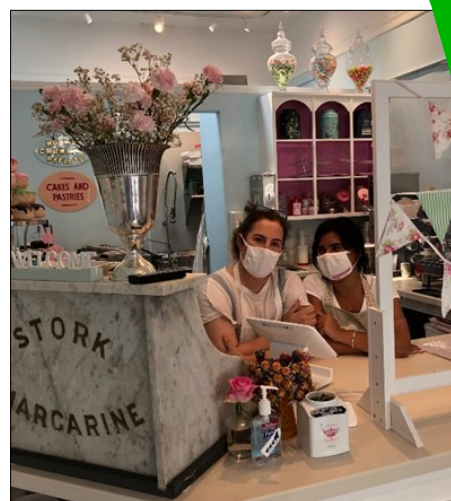
*Continued on Page 2*

### IN THIS ISSUE

2. Corte Madera Creek Project
2. Final Census Month
3. Planning Results
3. Chipper Days Sept 24
3. November Election Information
4. Emergency Alert Information
4. Recreation
5. Calendar

### Downtown Ross Open for Business

Downtown Ross is open for business! Crown & Crumpet officially opened their doors last week. Stop by for a bite or a beverage and to say hi to the team. Across the street, at 23 Ross Common, antiques dealer Upper Road West is putting the finishing touches on their Ross showroom. Additionally, the public health order has been amended to allow indoor hair salons to resume operations. MC23 Salon, Silhouette Hair Studio, and Atelier Emi have resumed business as usual (with all health and safety precautions in place, of course!)



Crown & Crumpet

Be sure to visit these new openings and re-openings and while you are downtown, feel free to stop by your other local retail, service, and restaurant offerings including Village Corner, Breaking Away Bicycles, Trattoria Fresco, Tony Tutto Pizza, Busy Bees, A Touch of Class, and Marche Aux Fleurs.

On August 29, the State of California replaced the County Data Monitoring List with a new metric for metering business re-openings: [The Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#). Under the new system, each county will be assigned one of four risk levels or tiers from Widespread to Minimal. When a county is able to meet the next tier's requirements for two consecutive weeks, it will be elevated to the next higher tier and additional business restrictions will be lifted. Under the current system, indoor hair salons, indoor retail, and outdoor dining are allowed in all tiers. As Marin County moves into higher tiers, additional activities such as indoor personal services and indoor dining will be permitted to resume. In addition to patronizing the local businesses that are currently open, we can assist them in expanding operations and help currently closed businesses to re-open by following public health guidelines to reduce the spread of COVID-19 – wash hands, wear a face covering, and maintain a distance of six feet from those outside of our households whenever possible.

- **Wildfire Detection and Evacuation:** Improve early wildfire detection, warnings, alerts and evacuation routes
- **Grants:** Provide a local grant program; seek grants and leverage local investments
- **Public Education:** Provide information to reduce risk, prevent wildfires and prepare for disasters; support FireSafe Marin
- **Defensible Space:** Expand and enhance defensible space home evaluations
- **Local Funding:** Provide funding for local wildfire mitigation to its 17 members. Ross will receive approximately \$106,000 this year to be used for defensible space inspections and roadside and parcel vegetation removal.



Since May, I have served as Ross' representative on the MWPA Board. The Board has held six startup meetings (along with many other subcommittee meetings), approved a work plan and budget, and next week will announce MWPA's first Executive Officer, who will start October 1.

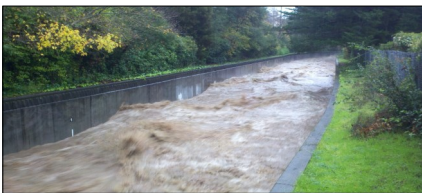
- The MWPA is currently recruiting citizens to serve on the Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) to ensure that
- MWPA's work plan and funding are accurate and coordinated
  - Activities have been appropriately overseen by an independent auditor
  - An annual report on the Board's actions is prepared

If you are interested in serving on the COC, please visit [marinwildfire.org](http://marinwildfire.org) and apply by the September 23 deadline.

Finally, the MWPA and FireSafe Marin will hold another chipper day in Ross on September 24. To pre-register (required), please visit [www.chipperday.com/marin](http://www.chipperday.com/marin).

Please be prepared, stay safe and wear your mask! ■

### Town's Response to Corte Madera Creek Flood Project EIR



Town Council discussed a draft comment letter to be sent to the Marin County Flood Control District

(MCFCD) regarding the new draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project, Phase I. The Town's comment letter is part of the DEIR public scoping process whereby questions and comments related to potential environmental impacts can be gathered by the MCFCD project team so that responses can be prepared and published in a comprehensive report. The public scoping period is a required component of the DEIR preparation.

The comment letter focused on the need for the DEIR to analyze a project alternative that removes the fish ladder obstruction from the creek without impacting

*Continued on Page 4*

### Final Month of Census Reporting

The 2020 Census concludes at the end of the month. Right now, Ross has a 69% response rate, which is behind Marin County as a whole, which is at 75%. While these



response rates are among the highest in the Bay Area, every response counts and can have an effect on funding and services available to the Town. If you have already responded to the Census, thank you. If you still need to, you can fill out the survey online in under 15 minutes by going to <https://my2020census.gov/>. Alternatively, you can mail in the paper questionnaire sent to you in late March (additional questionnaires were sent out in August) or call (844) 330-2020 to take the survey over the phone.

For more information: [click here](#) to watch a 30 second video or visit [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

## 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 10th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the October 8, 2020 Council meeting.

**Address: 400 Upper Toyon**  
**Owner: Raphael De Balmann**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 33 Bolinas Avenue**  
**Owner: Libby Tracy**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

## Annual Town Dinner Cancelled

We are sorry to announce this year's Annual Town Dinner will not take place due to COVID-19. We look forward to hosting this beloved Town event next year.

## CHIPPER DAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

FireSafe Marin will conduct another free curbside pickup chipper event in Ross on Thursday, September 24, 2020. The Chipper Program assists residents in the removal of unwanted and hazardous vegetation waste material such as tree limbs, shrubs, and brush from their property which helps in vegetation fuel reduction to reduce wildfire hazards in the community.



- **Pre-registration is required:** Residents must register at [www.chipperday.com/marin](http://www.chipperday.com/marin).
- **Signup is on a first come first served basis.**
- **Your pile is limited to 10 feet x 4 feet x 4 feet in size.** If a pile is larger than 10x4x4, the excess will be left for the resident to remove.

Go to <https://www.chipperday.com/marin> to learn more.

## Marin

## Votes! November 3



### Vote by Mail

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the public's health and well-being, all active, registered voters will automatically receive a vote by mail ballot for the November 3, 2020 Presidential General Election. Ballots will be mailed starting October 5th. The public is asked to return their ballot by mail. Ballots returned by mail must be post-marked on or before November 3rd, and received by the Elections Department by November 20th. Every ballot mailed to voters will have a unique code specific to the voter which can be tracked from the moment it is mailed out to when its received and processed in the County Elections Department. To follow your ballot, register at <https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/>. If you prefer to hand deliver your ballot, you may drop it off at one of the many Ballot Drop Box locations in Marin County or any polling place. For a list of locations go to [marinvotes.org](http://marinvotes.org).



### Polling Place Changes

Polling places in Marin County have been significantly reduced and consolidated with other nearby precincts due to COVID-19. As a result, the Town of Ross will **not** have a polling place this year in Ross. The County Elections Department has designated Ross voters use the First Presbyterian Church in San Anselmo located at 72 Kensington Road (near the Seminary). Polling places will open for 4 days starting October 31 through November 3.

**Which voters need to vote at a polling place?** Those include: voters who need a replacement ballot, failed to register before the October 19 deadline, or prefer to vote on an accessible voting machine. If you must vote at a polling place, social distancing and masks will be required for the protection of poll workers and other voters.

### Not sure you're registered to vote?

Check your status at [registertovote.ca.gov](http://registertovote.ca.gov). If you have moved, register or update your address at [registertovote.ca.gov](http://registertovote.ca.gov). The deadline to register to vote is October 19. After that, call the Elections Department at (415) 473-6456 for options.



Are you prepared for an emergency or potential evacuation? Here is important information to know.

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- 1) **AlertMarin** - Evacuation orders may be issued through the County Alert Marin Emergency Notification System. Everyone should be registered with AlertMarin to receive emergency alerts through phone call, text and email. Register at [AlertMarin](#). Emergency officials use the AlertMarin System to deliver incident-specific information or potentially life-saving instruction to the precise geographic area(s) affected.
- 2) **Town Siren** - The Town siren may be activated in an emergency. The most common types of emergencies are flooding during the winter and fire in late summer and fall. In the case of the siren sounding, residents should be prepared for imminent threat and take the appropriate action.
- 3) **Hi-Lo Sirens** - Emergency vehicles use the 'Hi-Lo' siren tone to warn residents of impending wildfires in their area. First responders may be driving through affected areas to alert residents to evacuate due to impending wildfires. The Ross Police Department as well as Ross Valley Fire Department have vehicles equipped with the 'Hi-Lo' siren tone to alert our residents.
- 4) **Join Town Email List** - Click [here](#) to keep informed of any impending emergencies and Town news.

**Response to Corte Madera Creek Flood Project EIR** - *continued from Page 2*

the existing Fredrick Allen Park. If the final project description includes the removal of the fish ladder, the concrete channel, and reconfiguration of Frederick Allen Park into a floodplain park, the letter states that the DEIR should identify all the potential CEQA impacts related to replacing the existing Park with the proposed floodplain park including tree replacement, grading, pedestrian access, and other landscape features. The Town of Ross has a key role in the project which includes Advisory Design Review of project concept designs, and the review, approval, and issuance of grading and building permits for all construction within Town Property. The public scoping period will conclude at 5:00 pm on September 21, 2020. If you have a comment, please submit to [jdixon@marincounty.org](mailto:jdixon@marincounty.org). ■

**RECREATION NEWS**

The Ross Recreation Department is currently in the middle of our first three week fall session. We are offering a variety of after school programs including Sandrick's Sports, Kinder Soccer, Sewing, Hip Hop and Holly's Phoenix Lake Nature Program. We are hoping to provide a safe place for children to come and social distance with their friends. In addition to that, we are running a selection of virtual programs including virtual chess and LEGO. All of our programs are operating under the COVID-19



*Staying cool in the creek with Holly at Phoenix Lake*

guidelines put in place the State and County. Currently, we are allowed to have pods of 14 children or fewer and we are running our programs in 3 week sessions. The



*Instructors Holly Salamun & Laura Lydecker keeping everyone safe*

guidelines are ever evolving and as a staff, we are committed to staying up to date and allowing for flexibility and adaptability in our programming in order to create as safe of an environment as possible for both the students and the staff.

Session 2 registration is OPEN! Some classes have already filled but there are spots remaining in certain programs, please check it out! For session 2, we will be adding Soccer with Jean Marc for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders and a fashion design class for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders as well. Session 2 will begin the week of September 21<sup>st</sup> and we look forward to seeing you there!



*Making fern fairy crowns in Holly's afterschool program*

If you have any questions about Ross Recreation programs, please email [rossrec@rossrecreation.org](mailto:rossrec@rossrecreation.org).

# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER 2020

Sep 7	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Labor Day
Sep 10	6:00	pm	Council Meeting ( <i>virtual meeting</i> )
Sep 15	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting ( <i>virtual meeting</i> )
Sep 25	--	--	Annual Town Dinner Cancelled

## OCTOBER 2020

Oct 8	6:00	pm	Council Meeting ( <i>virtual meeting</i> )
Oct 20	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting ( <i>virtual meeting</i> )

## NOVEMBER 2020

Nov 11	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Veterans Day
Nov 12	6:00	pm	Council Meeting ( <i>virtual meeting</i> )
Nov 17	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting ( <i>virtual meeting</i> )
Nov 26-27	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday

## CONTACT US

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

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