

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 | Issue 12 | December 2021

### Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Robbins  
Mayor

Winterfest was true holiday magic! Over 500 children and adults enjoyed an afternoon and evening of fun. There were beautiful holiday lights; snowflakes in the air; food and drink - cookies, hot chocolate, hot toddies! Even a food truck. There was live music: first the adorable Ross Preschool students sang, followed by the Branson Girls A Capella group; then Tailor Made Ensembles played jazzy holiday classics throughout the evening. And the weather was perfect.

Huge thanks go to the Ross Auxiliary; they have been planning this event since last July. Dozens and dozens of volunteers helped make this event special, including:

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### WinterFest Brings Holiday Cheer

The WinterFest event held on December 3rd brought great fun and holiday cheer to downtown Ross. Thank you to Ross Auxiliary and Ross Property Owners' Association for a great event.

There is still time for residents to [purchase a raffle ticket](#) to help support community events like these, and the last day for [Letters to Santa](#) is December 12th. Photos courtesy of Marin Family Photography - to see all event photos [Click Here](#).



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Christa Johnson  
Town Manager

### New Ross Town Manager

The Town Council welcomed new Town Manager Christa Johnson at the December Council meeting. Christa joined Ross on November 8th replacing retiring Town Manager Joe Chinn. Christa brings over 25 years of experience in local government management and has worked in several cities in California including the cities of Del Mar and Laguna Beach in southern California and the Town of Windsor and the City of Alameda in northern California. She credits growing up in a military family with parents committed to serving the various communities they lived in as her inspiration for her career in public service. "I'm looking forward to working with the Town Council, Town staff, Ross community members and regional partners to maintain and enhance the quality of life in this beautiful Town." Please contact Christa at 415-453-1453 ext 107, or drop by her office at Town Hall if you would like to share a comment with her.

- Ross Auxiliary Co-Presidents Elena Batalla and Adrienne Liggett; event Co-Chairs Jenna Greer and Erin Grace
- the Ross Property Owners' Association for co-sponsoring the holiday lights with Ross Auxiliary
- the Ross Police Officers' Association and family members, who donated and served cookies, donuts, cupcakes, and cocoa, and who also helped set up and clean up
- the Ross Valley Fire Department, who escorted Santa to the Common
- Ross Town staff, including Police Chief Pata, Gretchen Castets, Recreation Manager, and Maintenance Supervisor Anthony Alcozer, who made sure the power worked
- Ross School 8<sup>th</sup> graders (joined by a few high school students), who helped during the event and the morning after cleanup
- the Auxiliary Philanthropy Committee, who raised almost \$2000 at the event for Adopt a Family to support local families in need
- the Age Friendly Task Force, who are helping with Letters to Santa (the red mailbox marked "North Pole" in front of the post office)
- Marin Sanitary Service for donating the garbage and recycling bins for this event.



The Ross community has long enjoyed the annual tree lighting ceremony on the Common. This year the Ross Auxiliary transformed the small ceremony to a full-fledged winter festival, which was enjoyed by hundreds of residents of all ages. It was a wonderful start to the holiday season. ■

### Fire Drill Exercise Held in Downtown Ross



On Monday, November 22, the Ross Valley Fire Department (RVFD) conducted a training exercise in downtown Ross. The training involved two fire engines from the RVFD and one ladder truck from the Kentfield Fire

Department. The Fire Department training was a test of their abilities and systems in the event a fire was to breakout in the apartments and businesses located at 11 Ross Common. The Police Department assisted with traffic control while the fire department used their ladder truck to gain access to the roof of the businesses and apartments. Hoses were pulled from the trucks and connected to a nearby hydrant as the firefighters simulated a building fire and rescue operations. The RVFD conducts drills like these throughout the year to prepare for the possibility of fires. The practice training helps the firefighters condition themselves while allowing them to become familiar with our structures.

**Siren Testing Schedule** - As a reminder to residents, the Town will be testing the siren on the second and fourth Friday of the month at 12:00 noon.

### New Statewide Targets Regarding Organic Waste

In 2016, Governor Brown signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 1383, establishing methane emissions reduction targets in a statewide effort to reduce emissions of "short-lived climate pollutants" in various sectors of California's economy. SB 1383 sets a statewide target of 75% reduction of organic waste going to landfill and at least 20% recovery of currently disposed surplus food by 2025.



In addition to setting specific statewide targets, SB 1383 mandates cities and counties to:

- Provide organic waste collection services to all residents and businesses
- Establish an edible food recovery program
- Update the Town's procurement policy to purchase recycled content paper and recycled organic waste products (e.g., compost, mulch, and renewable natural gas) at a volume of 0.08 tons/resident

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## PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the December Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [December 9th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the January 13, 2022 Council meeting.

**Address: 14 Lagunitas Road - Ross Preschool**

**Applicant: David Allen-Hughes**

**Council Action: Approved**

**Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-1-0 (Kuhl opposed)**

## Statewide Targets - Organic Waste

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- Provide outreach and education for generators, haulers, facilities, edible food recovery organizations, and municipal departments
- Plan and secure access for recycling and edible food recovery capacity

At last night's meeting, the Council passed an ordinance to bring the Ross Municipal Code into compliance with SB 1383. While many of these practices are already in place in Ross, the updated ordinances will ensure that the Town is doing its part to address statewide organic waste and GHG reduction goals. ■



## Holiday Closure for Town Hall Offices

Town Hall offices of Administration, Building, Public Works, Planning, and Recreation will be closed for the holidays **December 24th through December 31, 2021**. If you have business needs with these departments, please address them before or after the closure. Police and Ross Valley Fire will remain open 24/7.

During the closure if you need an Encroachment Permit, please email [public-works@townofross.org](mailto:public-works@townofross.org), and someone will respond to you. Also during the closure, Building Inspections will be done on Tuesday, December 28th and Thursday, December 30th. Contact Building Inspector Eric Robbe, at (415) 453-1453 ext. 170, to schedule an inspection.

We will reopen for business Monday, January 3rd.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

## Marin Sanitary 2022 Rates



The Council approved the Marin Sanitary Service (MSS) rate increase of .74% for 2022. The Town of Ross participates in a Franchisor's Group comprised of San Rafael, Fairfax, Larkspur, San Anselmo, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District, and a portion of Marin County. The group meets several times a year to oversee MSS's operations and work together to conduct a single annual rate review analysis rather than each jurisdiction having to conduct and pay for a separate review. This year, R3 Consulting Group, Inc., has determined a .74% rate increase is appropriate for ratepayers in Ross which include residential homeowners, apartment owners, commercial property owners, and other businesses and tenants.

The MSS solid waste service collection, processing, disposal, and recycling service cost in Ross increases from \$43.11 per month in 2021 to \$43.43 per month in 2022, for the 32-gallon cart service. The proposed 2022 rates are not available for other jurisdictions yet, so this summary compares proposed Town 2022 rates to other jurisdictions' 2021 actual rates, which will certainly increase. Using this comparison, the Ross proposed rate of \$43.43 is lower than the Marin County average of \$49.36 and similar to the Bay Area average which is \$43.17.



RN

## Climate Action Workshops



Go on a low-carbon diet this winter with Resilient Neighborhoods. Experience the online Resilient Neighborhoods Climate Action Workshop Series with people who also care about a healthy planet. Have fun calculating your carbon footprint and taking steps to reduce it. Make your household resilient to droughts, wildfires, and power outages. In just five meetings you and your team will achieve measurable results through impactful actions that can save money too. Choose from the sessions starting on January 13 or January 18.

[Click here to sign-up for this popular \\*free\\* Marin workshop.](#)

## AGE FRIENDLY CORNER

*Tips to live long and well in Ross*

**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION** - Did you know that the Marin County Commission on Aging holds a monthly Zoom meeting that covers important topics of interest for older adults with interesting guest speakers? The meetings occur the first Thursday of the month. The presentation starts at 10 am and ends at 11 am. From 11:15 am-12:30 pm the Commission holds a business meeting which everyone is welcome to attend. At the business meeting you can learn more about what the Commission is doing to advocate and support older adults in the county. Make a New Year's resolution and attend at least one of the Commission on Aging meetings in 2022. The January 6th meeting will feature a presentation sponsored by the Health and Nutrition Committee.



*Educating & Advocating*

If you would like to have Commission meeting announcements sent to your email address, please call (415) 473-7118.

## RECREATION NEWS

This has been a year full of re-connecting, celebrating our friendships and community and slowly taking cautious steps forward. It is because of the people in this community, that we have been able to get back to almost all of our pre-COVID programming. We are wrapping up our fall session and moving into our winter session, beginning the first week of January 2022. We will continue to follow all safety measures to keep everyone as safe as possible and we thank you for your partnership in this effort.



There are two weeks of Holly Hoppin' Holiday camps that will cover the winter break school closure (12/20-12/31). The first week is full, but the second week does have a few openings remaining (12/27-12/31). You can either sign-up for all five days, or we are happy to prorate the cost for just a couple days. Send us an email ([rossrec@rossrecreation.org](mailto:rossrec@rossrecreation.org)) if you have any questions or need help getting your child (ren) registered.

Many of our winter programs are full, but we do have limited spots left in our basketball programs for 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders. All of our K-1 basketball programs are full. In addition to that, we have space in two of our new programs with long time instructor Chelsea Hill; Writer's Circle & Yoga for Youth. These programs will be held outdoors at the Ross Common and get both the mind and body activated.



Make sure to check out our website at [rossrecreation.org](http://rossrecreation.org) and join our email list by clicking the "get on the list" link on the homepage. This way, you will get our email blasts, and know when we open new programs.

From Maya, Jeneane and myself (Gretchen) here at the Ross Recreation department, we wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and very Happy New Year!



# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## DECEMBER 2021

Dec 9        6:00    pm    Town Council Meeting (*virtual meeting*)  
 Dec 24-31   --    --    Town Hall offices closed for the holidays

## JANUARY 2022– *Happy New Year!*

Jan 2        9:30-11 am    Pixie Park Coop Open House, RSVP required [www.pixiepark.org](http://www.pixiepark.org)  
 Jan 10       6:00    pm    Ross Property Owners Assn (*Zoom link, contact [jeffkoblick@comcast.net](mailto:jeffkoblick@comcast.net)*)  
 Jan 13       6:00    pm    Town Council Meeting (*virtual meeting*)  
 Jan 17       --    --    Town Hall offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday  
 Jan 18       7:00    pm    Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (*virtual meeting*)

## FEBRUARY 2022

Feb 7        6:00    pm    Ross Property Owners Assn (*Zoom link, contact [jeffkoblick@comcast.net](mailto:jeffkoblick@comcast.net)*)  
 Feb 10       6:00    pm    Town Council Meeting (*virtual meeting*)  
 Feb 15       7:00    pm    Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (*virtual meeting*)  
 Feb 17       9:00    am    Annual Council Strategic Workshop (*virtual meeting*)  
 Feb 21       --    --    Town Hall offices closed for Presidents Day

## CONTACT US

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

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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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