

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 | Issue 5 | May 2021

Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Robbins
Mayor

Spring brings renewal, and this year, after fourteen months of Covid restrictions, renewal is especially welcome. Venturing out is now possible, particularly with rising vaccination rates and declining numbers of new cases. And starting this week children ages 12-15 can be vaccinated. The risk of becoming ill with Covid has decreased dramatically.

Does this translate into a return of our beloved town events such as the Fourth of July picnic and the September town dinner? Will the Town Council resume meeting in Town Hall? There aren't answers to these questions yet, but things are moving in the right direction. Last

Continued on Page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

2. Recognition of Julie McMillan
2. Fire Prevention Workshop June 2
3. Planning Results
3. Outdoor Dining Event Highlights
3. Ross Chipper Days Coming
4. Wildfire Safety
4. Recreation
5. Calendar

Council Decision on Frederick Allen Park



After a detailed presentation by staff and listening to public comment, the Town Council voted unanimously to select "Alternative 1" as the preferred option for the section of the Marin County Flood Control District's (MCFCD) Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project Phase I that lies within the Town of Ross. Alternative 1 as well as the Proposed Project and other alternatives all provide increased flood-risk protection for the Town and Kentfield.

Alternative 1, as introduced by MCFCD in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), proposes that Frederick Allen Park (Allen Park) and the concrete channel remain intact with additional fish resting pools cut into the channel bottom to enhance fish passage. This alternative includes the removal of the fish ladder and modifications to the creek bed upstream to the Lagunitas Bridge but does not alter the concrete channel or change Allen Park. Alternative 1 would eliminate the temporary impact on visual quality within Allen Park which was identified in the DEIR as the one significant and unavoidable impact of the DEIR's Proposed Project.

The Proposed Project would have involved the removal of sections of the concrete channel and most of the existing trees within Allen Park to provide a widened, relandscaped creek bank area between the tennis courts and the post office parking lot. The bike path would be relocated away from the creek and the park would slope down to the naturalized creek using floodwalls and terracing. Although the Proposed Project provides enhanced fish passage and other environmental and flood-risk benefits, it is believed that the extensive construction impacts, unknown maintenance concerns, and most importantly the loss of the existing mature trees and landscaping which could take up to 20 years for the new trees to grow to the same level of canopy for shade and screening that exists today outweigh the benefits offered by the Proposed Project.

The Council directed the Town Manager to inform MCFCD of their selection of Alternative 1 as the preferred option for Allen Park prior to the adoption of the Final EIR by the Marin County Board of Supervisors scheduled for sometime in July.

year the answers were all, unequivocally, no. This year looks better.

It's likely that some form of Fourth of July celebration on the Common will be permitted. The Town is waiting until June 15 to hear updated California guidelines about social interactions. Given the low COVID transmission rate outdoors, it seems likely that families will be able to picnic on the Ross Common. A decision about whether the celebration can include food vendors or musicians will be made in mid-June.



Similarly, it's possible that the Town Dinner, held in late September, might be permitted this year. Like the Fourth of July celebration, decisions about whether to hold the dinner and what modifications might be necessary will be made closer to the actual date.

Finally, in-person Town Council meetings in Town Hall will resume when it's deemed safe. The Zoom meetings over the past year have been surprisingly successful: workshops, staff presentations, public input, and council deliberations have all proceeded smoothly. Attendance at these meetings is at an all-time high thanks to the convenience of attending on-line. The Council is looking into ways to continue to have an online meeting option once in-person meetings resume. This would give residents the choice of attending and participating either in person or online. ■

Council Member Julie McMillan Recognized



Julie McMillan

Council member Julie McMillan was recognized and presented with a commemorative gift at last night's Council meeting. At the April Council meeting, she completed her one-year term as Mayor of the Town of Ross. She led the Town during an unprecedented time with the COVID pandemic, social injustice, consideration of renaming Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, and raging California fires. We thank her immensely for her tireless and dedicated service during one of the most challenging years in our nation's history.

During her tenure, Council Member McMillan presided over 16 Town Council regular and special meetings, along with countless other meetings she attended virtually. She is serving on the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority Board and the Climate Action Committee and is committed to ensuring that Ross is ready in the event of a natural disaster or emergency. She has done an excellent job as Mayor, and we are very grateful for her service.

Fire Prevention Workshop *Prepare yourself for wildfire!*

In advance of the upcoming wildfire season, Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) and FIRESafe MARIN invite residents to learn ways to prepare themselves for the increasing risk of wildfire as the local drought worsens. In a series of virtual community workshops planned within different geographic service areas of Marin County, FIRESafe Marin will facilitate



presentations by fire safety professionals on a variety of topics including wildfire science, defensible space, home hardening basics, community and personal preparedness, and evacuation plans. This workshop will teach actionable skills that residents can use right away. The workshop for Ross residents is listed below.

Central Marin Fire Prevention Workshop

Wednesday, June 2, 2021, 5:00 - 7:30 PM

Join on the **FIRESafe MARIN Facebook live stream** or via Zoom at: <https://firesafemarin.zoom.us/j/81659676635>

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the May Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [May 13th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the June 10, 2021 Council meeting.

Address: 10 Ames Avenue
Owner: Dan & Carly Costello
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Robbins recused)

Address: 11 Morrison Road
Owner: 11 Morrison Road LLC
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Downtown Ross Outdoor Dining Enjoyed by Locals

Another outdoor dining event was held in Downtown Ross on April 30 and May 1 as residents turned out to support the downtown restaurants and enjoy a meal outside. Redwood Drive at Ross Common was closed to traffic to allow for tables and chairs in the street. Following the County's health order COVID guidelines, residents gathered with family and friends at the tables and on the Common field for some much needed R & R. Big thanks go to staff who coordinated the event and ensured it was a success: Gretchen Castets, Chief Raffaello Pata and the Ross Police Department, Anthony Alcozer, Zack Baker, and Patrick Streeter.

The Town plans to hold more downtown events in the coming months. Stay tuned.



Chipper Days Are Coming



FireSafe MARIN, with funding support from the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority, is once again conducting "Chipper Days" in Ross to assist with vegetation-fuel reduction to reduce wildfire hazards in Marin. The Chipper Program is a free curbside pickup program for residents to collect waste material such as tree limbs, shrubs, brush, woody bushes, pampas grass, etc., that is within 10x4x4. If you have a bigger pile, you can request a larger-sized pile pickup during registration, and they will do their best to accommodate your request. FIREsafe MARIN has expanded the 2021 program and most Marin residents can expect two curbside chipper events in 2021.



The following Chipper Day schedule for Ross neighborhoods is approximate.

The following Chipper Day schedule for Ross neighborhoods is approximate.

Laurel Grove (streets served by Laurel Grove & streets east of Sir Francis Drake): Week of June 7 & Week of Sept 6

Downtown Ross & southwest Ross (streets south of Lagunitas Road to Kentfield border): Week of June 14 & Week of Sept 13

Shady Lane (west Ross, Bolinas Avenue south to Lagunitas Road): Week of July 5 & Week of Oct 4

Winship (east Ross, streets served by Winship and El Camino Bueno): Week of June 14 & Week of Sept 13

Please go <https://www.chipperday.com/marin>, to find the date for your address and to register. Pre-registration is required. View the [interactive map](#) to find event dates and areas.



Wildfire Safety is Front and Center Again

When does wildfire season start? If you've been in Marin County for a while, you know that it is starting earlier than in years past. We have already had our first Red Flag Warning this past week. That's the reality of living in Marin with its relatively dry Mediterranean climate during a drought of growing concern. Wildfire season certainly won't be stopped by the COVID-19 pandemic, either. The Town of Ross is collaborating with the new joint-powers Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) to raise awareness about wildfire preparedness, and that work will need to proceed whether there is a public health emergency or not.



In a key step in wildfire prevention, the MWPA was formed in 2020 as a joint powers authority (JPA) after receiving 70.8% support from local voters and is supported by 17 local municipal governments, fire districts, and utility districts. Backed by a \$10.8 million work plan, the authority went to work developing and implementing a comprehensive wildfire prevention and emergency preparedness plan for most of Marin including Ross and throughout the Ross Valley that includes vegetation management, wildfire detection and evacuation program improvements, defensible space evaluations, and public education. Ross and the Ross Valley Fire Department have joined MWPA, the nonprofit FIREsafe Marin, the Marin County Fire Chiefs Association, and CAL FIRE in urging residents to take on the responsibility to be prepared, especially as wildfires increase in number and severity as the impacts of climate change accelerate. Local fire agencies recommend the installation of fire-resistant roofing, siding, vents, and dual-pane windows as a wildfire mitigation method. Responsible vegetation management and keeping driveways and roads clear of overgrown shrubs helps ensure access by first responders during a wildfire.

If you have not already done so, residents should register their contact information with [Alert Marin](#) notification system overseen by the Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services. More information about fire safety can be found on the [FIREsafe Marin](#) website, the [MWPA](#) website, and CAL FIRE's [Ready for Wildfire](#) website. Learn about how to prepare an emergency kit at the [Ready Marin](#) website.

RECREATION NEWS

"Play is often talked about as if it were the relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood." (Fred Rogers) In the past couple months, we have been able to see the children of the community get back to the serious work of play. This can be playing soccer with their peers in Mr. Jackson or Coach Schaffer's afterschool programs or exploring the endless lessons nature has to teach us in the Holly Hoppin' Aftercare program on their hikes to Phoenix Lake. Our number one goal at Ross Recreation is to create opportunities for play to happen in as safe a way as possible.



Sports with Sandrick on the Common



Holly Hoppin' Aftercare Hike

As we move into summer, we are excited for what is to come. Many of our sessions are full but we do still have some openings, make sure to check our

website at <https://www.rossrecreation.org/>, or contact us at rossrec@rossrecreation.org with any questions. We just added a new Hip Hop camp that will start in July with the wonderful Miss Chelsea. There is limited space so make sure to sign up if you're interested! All of our camps will have strict adherence to CDC guidelines and staff will be trained on how to keep both the campers and themselves as safe as possible.



Come dance with Miss Sea this Summer!

In addition to the youth programs, we are working hard to provide more adult and age friendly programming for the community. If there are any programs that would be of interest to that demographic, please reach out and share your thoughts! After a year of so much isolation, we really want to work to bring community together and find creative ways to reconnect.

Huge thank you to the Ross Recreation community and all the families that support our programs, we couldn't do any of this without you!

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2021

May 10	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Assn (for Zoom link, contact jeffkoblick@comcast.net)
May 13	6:00	pm	Council Meeting (virtual meeting)
May 18	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (virtual meeting)
May 31	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Memorial Day

JUNE 2021

Jun 7	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Assn (for Zoom link, contact jeffkoblick@comcast.net)
Jun 10	6:00	pm	Council Meeting (virtual meeting)
Jun 15	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (virtual meeting)

JULY 2021

Jul 5	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Independence Day
Jul 8	6:00	pm	Council Meeting (virtual meeting)
Jul 20	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (virtual meeting)

CONTACT US

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

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 320, Ross, CA 94957
 Street Address: 31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Ross, CA 94957

Visit us at www.townofross.org



Email

We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email

llopez@townofross.org

The Morning After is published by the Town of Ross. No portion of this newsletter may be copied, reproduced or reprinted without advance written permission from the Town of Ross. For questions, please contact Linda Lopez at llopez@townofross.org.