

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Robbins
Mayor

Into each life some rain must fall, and in Ross that means 11 inches in 18 hours. To keep residents safe during the unprecedented "atmospheric river," Town staff worked tirelessly both before and during the October 25th storm. Days before the storm Town Clerk Linda Lopez sent town-wide emails notifying residents of the upcoming storm and Public Works staff Anthony Alcozer and Zach Baker cleared storm drains and culverts throughout Ross. Just after midnight on the eve of the storm, Police Chief Pata began monitoring the creek level every two hours. On Sunday morning he came to Town Hall, where he remained until Sunday night. Throughout the day, Chief Pata was in contact by phone with Town

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Town Facilities Fire Options Considered



The public safety facilities in Ross are nearing 100 years old and are physically and functionally obsolete with significant structural deficiencies. At the March 2021 Town Council meeting after much community input and discussion, the Town Council provided direction to staff to proceed with the next steps for replacing Town facilities to

include the police station, paramedic quarters, and administrative staff but to not replace the fire station at the same site. Since that time, Town staff and Councilmembers Brekhuis and Kuhl, who are Directors of the Ross Valley Fire Department (RVFD) Board, have been working with the RVFD Management Team and Board of Directors on the best options to providing fire services in Ross and the other RVFD JPA communities (San Anselmo, Fairfax, and Sleepy Hollow) with the goal of providing a high level of service to the entire RVFD community including Ross.

At the November Council meeting, RVFD Fire Chief Jason Weber presented and updated the Town Council and community on the options related to not rebuilding the Ross fire station. Over the past months, the RVFD Board has been meeting to discuss the options. The eight service options identified were reduced to two viable service options to serve Ross and the other JPA entities. Both options would provide the same number of RVFD fire personnel as exists today. The two options are moving the engine currently located in Ross to the downtown San Anselmo station (thus two engines would operate there with two people on each engine at any time) or moving the fire staff currently in Ross to both the downtown San Anselmo engine and Fairfax engine thus increasing staffing on each engine from two people to three people. The operational, service, and financial considerations were discussed for both options. Each option has different advantages compared to the other alternative. After the in-depth presentation, the Council discussed the options and provided direction to RVFD Board Members Brekhuis and Kuhl and the Town Manager for upcoming RVFD Board meetings. The RVFD Board of Directors will meet on November 10 on this topic. Ultimately, all four jurisdictions - Fairfax, Ross, San Anselmo, and Sleepy Hollow - will have to be in agreement for any option to be selected and implemented.

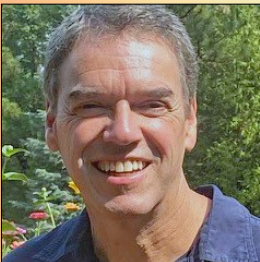
Manager Chinn, and by video conference with Fire Chief Jason Weber and the County Office of Emergency Services. Throughout the day, Town Manager Chinn and Chief Pata were communicating relating to the storm. Chief Pata and Linda Lopez sent town-wide emails during the storm, warning residents of the possibility of flooding. Ms. Lopez was at home without power, but managed to dictate a flood warning email to Town employee Donna Redstone, who still had power and was able to send out the email. Police Sergeant John Adams used the Police Department's Facebook and Instagram accounts to update residents. Public Works employees Anthony and Zach were in Ross throughout the storm clearing storm drains, helping with downed trees, responding to resident calls, and connecting a generator to the SFD traffic signals at Lagunitas and Laurel Grove. At noon, when flooding seemed likely, Chief Pata called in additional Ross police officers. By this time there was localized flooding and more trees had fallen. Soon thereafter a large oak tree fell across Lagunitas Road, cutting power to much of the town, including Town Hall; generator backup kept Town services functioning. Police closed Lagunitas Road because of live downed power lines. Shortly before 4pm, to warn residents about a possible flood, Alert Marin, an emergency notification system, was activated. In addition, the Town's emergency siren was activated, but, despite both generator and battery backup systems, the siren didn't go off. (Town staff fixed the malfunction and is regularly testing the system and its backup.) Chief Pata, former Chief Masterson and Officer Moy went door-to-door to advise residents along the creek to move to higher ground; most residents had already left their homes. Fortunately the creek didn't flood. Police and Public Works employees stayed in Ross through the evening, not leaving until the risk of flooding had passed.



Fallen tree Lagunitas Rd
 October 25, 2021

We thank our Town employees you for keeping us safe! ■

Recognition of Joe Chinn Upon His Retirement



Joe Chinn

At the November 4th Council meeting, Town Manager Joe Chinn was recognized for his excellent service with the Town the past six years. Joining Ross in 2015, Joe has led the Town with the highest standards of excellence in government, impeccable character and integrity, and a deep commitment to serve the Ross community.

The staff and Council have thoroughly enjoyed working with Joe. His kind and generous spirit and approachable working style will definitely be missed by all. We thank him for his dedication, his leadership, and commitment to providing outstanding service. We wish him all the best in his retirement and future endeavors.

The Council will host a reception for Joe outside Town Hall on **Thursday, November 11th from 4:00-5:00 pm**. Residents are welcome to attend to bid farewell to Joe whose last day is Friday, November 12. Please RSVP by November 9th to eliz.robbs@gmail.com, if you plan to attend.

Restrictive Covenants - Fair Housing in Marin

Last night, Marin County representatives gave a presentation on the Restrictive Covenant Project. A covenant is a legally enforceable contract imposed in a deed upon the buyer of property. Racially restrictive covenants refer to legal agreements that prohibit the purchase, lease, or occupation of a piece of property by a particular group of people and that prohibit the homeowner from selling or renting to anybody of a specific race or ethnic background. In a landmark 1948 ruling, the Supreme Court deemed all racial restrictive covenants unenforceable. Although the 1968 Fair Housing Act prohibited discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, marital status, and familial status, many restrictive covenants continue to remain in property deeds throughout Marin.

Through the collaboration of the [Community Development Agency](#), the [County's Office of Equity](#) and the [Assessor-Recorder's Office](#), residents of Marin are able to certify and affirm that illegal and racially restrictive covenants are unconstitutional and violate current laws and County values. Residents, former residents, and families who currently or formerly lived in Marin are encouraged to share personal stories. For more information please visit: <https://www.marincounty.org/main/restrictive-covenants-project>.

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the November Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [November 4th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the December 9, 2021 Council meeting.

Address: 210 Lagunitas Road

Owner: Dave Samuel

Council Action: Approved

Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 140 Lagunitas Road

Owner: Kurt & Tammy Mobley

Council Action: Approved

Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

WinterFest is Coming! December 3, 2021



Kick off the holidays with [Ross Auxiliary's WinterFest](#) event on Friday, December 3rd 3:30-6:30PM. There's something for everyone to enjoy: a live band playing jazzy holiday classics, kids caroling, tasty food, cocktails & wine, hot cocoa & cookies, falling snow, Santa and more! Plus enjoy our spectacular holiday lights display, co-sponsored by [RPOA](#). We're also proud to offer safe rides home for seniors. It's a festive celebration for residents of all ages!

Get in the holiday spirit early: order a [Gingerbread House Decorating Kit](#), order an elegant [Holiday Wreath](#) and [purchase a Raffle Ticket](#) to help support WinterFest festivities and the Holiday Lights display in Ross Common. Mark your calendar to [send a letter to Santa](#) starting Nov. 28!

For an event schedule, visit <https://www.rossauxiliary.com/events/winterfest>.

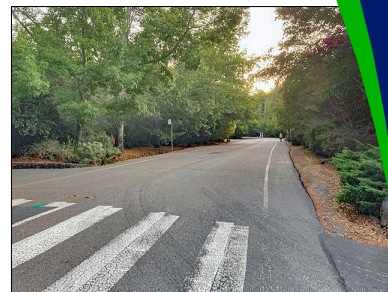
For an event schedule, visit <https://www.rossauxiliary.com/events/winterfest>.

Questions? Email hello@rossauxiliary.com.



Laurel Grove Safe Pathways Project Alignment

The Town Council provided direction to a preferred alignment for the Laurel Grove Safe Pathways Project Phase II last night, following a presentation of the alternatives by the Town Engineer and project consultants.



The project will provide a single 4' minimum width pedestrian pathway and protective asphalt berm adjacent to the existing travelled way of Laurel

Grove between Canyon Way and Sir Francis Drake Blvd. It is anticipated that the existing roadway will require widening and retaining walls in some locations and possible realignment of the existing lane striping to maximize the width available for the pathway. The Laurel Grove roadway between Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Canyon Road will also be repaved and restriped with appropriate signage and other markers installed as required. Project details such as retaining wall façade, bicycle lane striping, additional on-street parking opportunities, crosswalk locations, and traffic calming devices will be developed and discussed after the alignment is selected but prior to Town Council acceptance of the final design and authorization to bid the project for construction.

The following three design alternatives were presented, in consideration of pedestrian safety, alterations to private property frontages, available right of way, conflicts with existing utilities, parking, environmentally sensitive areas, and overall costs:

Alternative 1: New pathway on the north side of Laurel Grove Avenue with driveway impacts;

Alternative 2: New pathway on the south side of Laurel Grove Avenue with Right of Way impacts;

Alternative 3: New pathway on the south side of Laurel Grove Avenue with Environmental impacts.

After discussing the alternatives and hearing public input on the project, the Town Council directed the Town Engineer to further analyze the design of Alternative 2.

Construction of a new pathway is expected to begin in the Summer of 2022.



MPWA Citizens

Oversight Committee



Help Marin invest in wild-fire prevention, preparation, and adaptation. The Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) is seeking representatives from West Marin, Central Marin, and civic organizations for a three-year term to the

MWPA Citizens Oversight Committee (COC). Applications are due by **Tuesday, November 30, 2021**. COC participants will be residents who are neither elected officials of any government entity, nor public employees of any Member. Service on the COC will be restricted to individuals who reside in Marin County. Participants on the COC will be required to submit a statement of financial disclosure and participation will be restricted to individuals without economic interest in any of the Authority's projects. Click [here](#) to apply. For more information, go to marinwildfire.org.

AGE FRIENDLY CORNER

Tips to live long and well in Ross

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Dominican University - Funded in part by a generous grant from the Osher Foundation, this program is designed to provide intellectually stimulating opportunities for 50+ adults in our community. Non-credit



courses provide you with the intellectual challenge of academic programs minus the stress of grades, tests, or homework. Now you can be-

come involved with a learning community of peers seeking information, greater creativity, and self-expression on a wide array of topics, as well as political dialogue on current events.

50 Acacia Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901
(415) 458-3763

Email: olli@dominican.edu

Website: <http://www.dominican.edu/osher>

RECREATION NEWS

Winter Registration is LIVE! We opened our winter registration last week and are very excited for the return of basketball, cotillion/ballroom, LEGO, academic chess, hip hop and much more. We also have some new programs, including Yoga for Youth and Writer's Circle that will both be held on the Ross Common. Kid's Club, which is the Ross School afterschool program run by our very own Ronda & Mallory, has space available, so make sure to sign up on our website. Kid's Club runs Monday-Thursday, dismissal-5pm. We also have Friday Funday with Holly for afterschool care on Fridays.



It's hard to believe, but the holidays are in the near future and we have a wonderful holiday camp program that will run both weeks of Winter Break with Holly Salamun. The camps will be held at Phoenix Lake

(weather permitting). If there is rain, we will have a back-up option of using the Kids Club room/Ross Common. Your children will have a great time exploring in nature with friends, while you have time to do last minute shopping or take some time for yourself. In addition to that, there is a mid-winter break camp in February, also at Phoenix Lake. There will be art, science, and a whole lot of fun. These camps have limited space, so make sure to sign up soon to hold your spot. We have pro-rated options, if your child doesn't need to attend all week, please e-mail rossrec@rossrecreation.org, for more information.



Tennis court reminders: We re-keyed the courts on October 19th, so you will need to purchase a new tennis court key from the Ross Recreation office. They are \$200 for a 2-year period. The office is open Monday-Thursday, 2pm-5pm. Also, the tennis courts will be **CLOSED** this Sunday, November 7th, from 9am-12pm for a Ross Recreation/Tennis in Marin mini tournament.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2021

Nov 6	3:30-5 pm	Pixie Park Open House
Nov 11	-- --	Town Hall offices closed for Veterans Day
Nov 11	4:00-5 pm	Council Reception for Retiring Town Manager Joe Chinn, Town Hall
Nov 16	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
Nov 25-26	-- --	Town Hall offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday

DECEMBER 2021

Dec 3	3:30-6:30 pm	WinterFest, Ross Common (<i>see Page 3 for details</i>)
Dec 5	3:30-5 pm	Pixie Park Open House
Dec 6	7:00 pm	Ross Property Owners Assn (<i>Zoom link, contact jeffkoblick@comcast.net</i>)
Dec 9	6:00 pm	Town Council Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
Dec 21	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
Dec 24-31	-- --	Town Hall offices closed for the holidays

JANUARY 2022– Happy New Year!

Jan 1	-- --	Town Hall offices closed for New Year's Day
Jan 13	6:00 pm	Town Council Meeting
Jan 17	-- --	Town Hall offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Jan 18	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting

CONTACT US

Administration Office	415-453-1453 x105	Police Department	415-453-1453, Opt. 2
- llopez@townofross.org		- rpata@townofross.org	
Building Department	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 Department	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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Visit us at www.townofross.org



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

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