

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 | Issue 1 | January 2022

Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Robbins
Mayor

Last March, Branson filed an application to amend condition #1 of its use permit to increase the school's enrollment from 320 to 420 students. This followed voter approval of Measure F in March 2020, which, subject to the approval of a use permit by the Town Council, allowed a total student enrollment of up to 420 students. The Council began discussing the application and use permit at last night's meeting.

The Town requires use permits for non-residential use of property in residential neighborhoods. Branson's current use permit dates from 1978 when Branson, which started as a small girls' boarding school, transitioned to an enrollment of 320 students. The use permit established

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Employee Recognition Program

Each January, the Town recognizes its employees who have reached a 5-year anniversary milestone. The following three employees were recognized for their years of dedicated service. Thank you Anthony, Gretchen, and Richard!

Anthony Alcozer, Maintenance Supervisor (5 years)

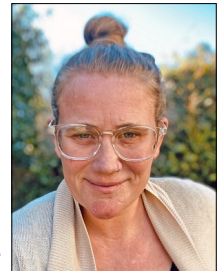


Anthony Alcozer
Maintenance Supervisor

Anthony joined Ross Public Works in 2016 as a maintenance worker. He was promoted to senior maintenance worker in 2019 and currently holds the title of maintenance supervisor. Anthony oversees and contributes to the maintenance of public facilities and landscaping throughout Town, including roadway medians and park facilities, as well as the maintenance of the Town's municipal storm drain system. Anthony represents Ross at the monthly Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program staff meetings and also coordinates and oversees a creek clean up yearly. He reviews Tree Permit applications for compliance with the Town's Tree ordinance and works closely with the town arborists to ensure that the Municipal Code is being met. Anthony prides himself on being a lifelong learner and continues to increase his knowledge on all things public works by taking classes with the Maintenance Supervisor Association. When he is not working, Anthony enjoys hiking with his family, BBQing for friends, and coaching youth basketball.

Gretchen Castets, Recreation Manager (5 years)

Gretchen Castets joined Ross Recreation in November of 2016 as the administrative clerk and was responsible for assisting the recreation clerks, bookkeeper and Recreation Manager. She was then promoted to Administrative Assistant and then Recreation Manager. Gretchen now oversees the Recreation Department and ensures that the programs are run effectively to provide the best possible recreation opportunities for all ages of the Ross Community and beyond. Gretchen also partners with the Age Friendly task force of Ross and works to create a community that is responsive to the needs of all. Gretchen loves working with the families of Ross and is excited for what the future holds for the Recreation Department!



Gretchen Castets
Recreation Manager

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conditions to ensure that the school's impact on the Town didn't increase from 1978; conditions included limiting the use of the athletic facilities to the number of events held in 1978; prohibiting special events for those unaffiliated with the school; and limiting the number of campus buildings and parking.

An outside consultant and the Town planner have been reviewing Branson's application and its traffic management plan. A key point is whether the traffic plan is adequate to keep traffic net-neutral, as Branson has promised. In addition, the consultant and planner have suggested amendments to some of the conditions in the existing use permit.

The Town Council reviewed Branson's application to increase enrollment from 320 to 420 students, the traffic plan intended to keep traffic net-neutral, and the 1978 use permit and suggested amendments.

Branson has asked for a decision about their application in time for the 2022 application cycle. The Council will make every effort to accommodate this request; the Council is able to hold additional meetings as needed.



Some Ross residents have expressed a desire for Branson to be allowed to increase its enrollment. At the same time, others have expressed concerns about increased traffic and noise. The Council will strive to adopt a use permit that respects the needs and concerns of all. ■

June 2022 Council Election Filing Period Begins February 14



Are you interested in running for Town Council? Do you have an interest in civic issues? The next election to fill two Council seats for a 4-year term will be held on

Tuesday, June 7, 2022. The terms of Council Members Elizabeth Robbins and Julie McMillan will expire at that time.

To qualify to run for Council, you must be a Ross resident and a registered voter. The filing period for Council candidates begins on **February 14th and runs through March 11th**. If any of the incumbents *do not* file for re-election by March 11th, the filing date is extended to Wednesday, March 16 (for non-incumbents only).

If you are interested in running for a Council seat or have any questions regarding the process, please contact Town Clerk Linda Lopez at (415) 453-1453 ext. 105, or via email at llopez@townofross.org. An appointment with the Town Clerk is necessary in order to obtain the nomination papers.

Planning & Building Director Patrick Streeter to Leave Ross



Patrick Streeter
Planning & Building Director

The Town of Ross will be losing Planning and Building Director Patrick Streeter, who has announced his resignation effective January 21st, to become the Community Development Director for the Town of Windsor.

Patrick was hired at the start of the COVID lockdown in 2020, which was a very challenging time to begin a new job as employees were sent home to work and conduct Town business remotely. His first few months on the job were working primarily from home as Town Hall offices were closed. During his tenure, he brought a number of planning projects before the Council, modified zoning code and other administrative amendments, and oversaw the monthly Advisory Design Review Group meetings. His knowledge of Planning is extensive and many Ross residents have benefited from it and will miss his expertise and guidance. The Town thanks and wishes Patrick all the best in his new position. The Town is beginning the recruitment process to replace him.

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the January Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [January 13th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the February 10, 2022 Council meeting.

Address: 39 Fernhill Avenue
Applicant: The Branson School
Council Action: Continued
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-1-0 (Kuhl opposed)

Leaf Blower Use Reminder



It's that time of year when fallen leaves are everywhere and leaf blowers are in full use. We want to remind residents of the regulations regarding leaf blower use as the

Town has received several noise complaints.

- Electric leaf blowers are permitted Monday-Friday between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- Only property owners may use leaf blowers on Saturdays between 9:30 am and 4:00 pm.
- No leaf blowers are allowed on Sundays and holidays.
- Gasoline powered leaf blowers are prohibited. The Public Works Department may issue a permit allowing gas powered leaf blower use in the case of special hardship or other circumstances, but only if the property is more than an acre and adjoining neighbors do not object. Contact the Public Works Department at (415) 453-1453 ext. 115, for more information.
- Gardeners may use power mowers on Saturday between 9:30 am and 4:00 pm, but may not use leaf blowers of any kind on the weekend.
- Leaves must be properly disposed of into compost carts to avoid clogging the storm drains.

Thank you for following these regulation guidelines. Contact the Public Works Department if you have any questions (publicworks@townofross.org).

GUN

SAFETY - a message from the
Ross Police Department



The Ross Police Department encourages those who own guns at home to practice safe gun ownership and firearm safety.

FIREARM SAFETY

Every day 316 people are shot by a gun in the United States. Of these, 11 children (Age 1 – 17) are injured or killed due to improperly stored or misused firearms. Having unsecured firearms at your residence increase risks of gun related suicide by 300% (<https://www.bradyunited.org/>)



SAFE FIREARM STORAGE

Securely storing firearms is an essential element of responsible gun ownership. It is the single best way to help prevent firearm accidents, theft, and misuse. California Penal Code 25100 makes someone criminally liable if they store a loaded firearm where a child is likely to gain access to it. Unfortunately, more than 65 percent of California gun owners do not store their guns in the safest manner, both locked and unloaded. The Ross Police Department offers free trigger locks/cables that can stop a firearm from operating while under lock and key to provide another level of safety. Trigger locks are one way of preventing someone from purposely or accidentally using the firearm that may cause injury. Firearm boxes/safes (locked containers) provide an extra level of protection beyond trigger locks because guns are "out of sight". Additional information about firearms safety from the California Department of Justice may be found by visiting <https://oag.ca.gov/firearms/tips>.

DISPOSAL OF UNWANTED FIREARMS

As part of our service, the Ross Police Department will collect any unwanted firearms and ammunition from our residents without charge. Simply call the Town Police Department at (415) 453-2727 and arrange to have a police officer take possession of unwanted firearms or ammunitions from your home. Do not transport a loaded weapon. If you are unsure or not able to transport the weapon safely, call us and we will come and recover it from you. The officer will provide you with a written receipt. Afterwards, you must fill out California Department of Justice, Bureau of Firearms Form #BOF 4546 – Notice Of No Longer in Possession and return it to California Department of Justice <https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/firearms/forms/bof-4546-nl...>

The recovered firearm will be destroyed properly.



Employee Recognition - *Cont.*

Richard Simonitch, Public Works Director/Town Engineer (5 years)



*Richard Simonitch
Public Works Director/
Town Engineer*

Richard joined Ross in 2016 as the Director of Public Works and Town Engineer. He is responsible for the development and annual implementation of the Town's Capital Improvement Program, including the coordination of the design, bidding, management and inspection of all Capital projects. He is also responsible for the technical review and issuance of all Encroachment Permits for construction within the Town maintained rights-of-way. Richard also reviews Building and Planning permit applications for compliance with grading, drainage, storm water pollution control, land surveying, and all construction within the FEMA flood plain for compliance with federal, state, and local ordinances and standard civil engineering and surveying practices. In his spare time, he enjoys travelling, playing guitar, and flying in his experimental light-sport aircraft. ■

AGE FRIENDLY CORNER

Tips to live long and well in Ross

Are you or someone you love in need of accessible, high-quality in-home care?



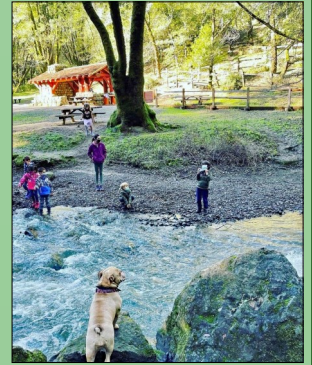
Since 1993, the Marin Center for Independent Living (Marin CIL) Caregiver Registry has been dedicated to improving the quality of life for those in need of care at home. The Registry is full of

reliable, highly-skilled caregivers who prefer to work one-on-one by mutual agreement. Beyond the initial matchmaking, Marin CIL provides assistance and encouragement as an individual and their caregiver develop a lasting work relationship.

Please contact Mary Botelle, Registry Manager, at 415-459-6245 x18 or email mary@marincil.org. The Marin Center for Independent Living is a nonprofit organization that has been serving Marin County residents since 1979. Visit <https://www.marincil.org/> for more information.

RECREATION NEWS

Happy New Year from the Ross Recreation Department! I wanted to begin by extending a huge thank you to the Ross community for partnering with us to keep our programs running by following protocol and guidelines that kept our staff and students safe. As we move forward, our commitment to you, is to remain vigilant in keeping the community as safe as we possibly can and work to provide programs and classes for all ages that keep our bodies and minds activated.



Our winter session just began and we are off to a good start. Most of our programs are full, but we do have spots available in a select number of programs. We have a mid-winter break program run by Holly Salamun that will be held at Phoenix Lake, weather permitting (or Ross Common/Kids Club if raining), that has space. You can either sign up for the entire week, or we are happy to pro-rate the cost if your child(ren) can only attend a couple days. There is also space in yoga & writers circle with Chelsea Hill and these will both be held outdoors on the Ross Common.

Kids Club started a new session after the winter break and there is space available Mon-Thurs. You have the option to sign up for 1-4 days of the week and your child is brought directly there at the end of the school day. The Friday afterschool option is Friday FUNday with Holly Salamun and that also has a few spots open.



Lastly, a reminder that the Ross tennis courts were re-keyed in October, and we are selling new keys through the Ross Recreation department for \$200 for a 2-year period. Please email rossrec@rossrecreation.org, to schedule a time to purchase a key.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2022

Jan 10	6:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Assn (<i>Zoom link, contact jeffkoblick@comcast.net</i>)
Jan 13	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
Jan 17	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Jan 18	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)

FEBRUARY 2022

Feb 7	6:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Assn (<i>Zoom link, contact jeffkoblick@comcast.net</i>)
Feb 10	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
Feb 15	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
Feb 21	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Presidents Day

MARCH 2022

Mar 7	6:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Assn (<i>Zoom link, contact jeffkoblick@comcast.net</i>)
Mar 10	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
Mar 15	9:00	am	Annual Council Strategic Workshop (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
Mar 15	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)

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		- cjohnson@townofross.org	

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

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