

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 | Issue 10 | October 2022

Mayor's Corner



P. Beach Kuhl
Mayor

Here's a layperson's quick look at the status of what is of interest to us in Ross regarding flood control. There are three separate projects which could affect Ross residents. The first is the San Anselmo Flood Risk

Reduction Project. Study has shown that what San Anselmo is planning to do will increase flood risk during a 100 year storm to about eight Ross properties and twelve San Anselmo properties but will decrease flood risk to about 480 properties in the Ross Valley including about 70 properties in Ross. Federal Emergency Management Agency regulations require that such projects provide mitigation from such effects, sometimes by providing funding to raise residents'

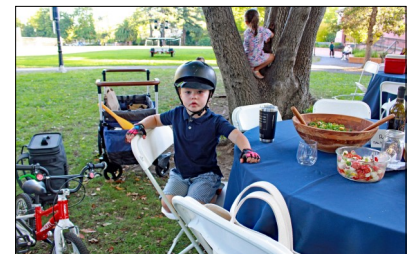
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Annual Ross Town Dinner Highlights

We hope you were able to attend this year's Town Dinner which was a great success. Thanks to Recreation Manager Gretchen Castets and all who made this event possible. Enjoy the photos.



homes above increased flood levels. This is a very expensive process and no such funds are currently available.

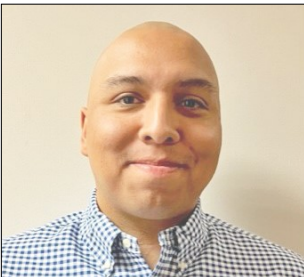
The second program of interest is Ross's own Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project. This program was being developed by the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the Army Corps of Engineers, but ultimately the Corps of Engineers withdrew from participation in planning and construction of the project, thereby eliminating previously proposed flood diversion tunnels to provide 100 year protection in the creek area alongside Sylvan Lane by carrying flood water around the area. This leaves Ross basically with plans to remove the fish ladder and rework the creek bed as necessitated by the removal. As planning moves along, the County will be coming to the Town for permits for the portions of the construction which will occur on property owned by the Town.

The third project affecting us is one that Ross alone is doing, the replacement of the Winship Avenue bridge. That structure has reached the end of its useful life and the opening under it does not allow a sufficient flow of water to pass under it, causing backups when there is substantial water flow in heavy rain. Right now, full funding is only available for the fish ladder project. The State is expected to come up with funds for the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction project. The Winship Avenue bridge project is expected to be funded from federal grants administered through Caltrans. It is likely to be at least several years before construction begins, but we will continue to seek means to speed up the process.



As long as weather permits, I will continue to be available for questions and comment on the steps of the post office from about 10:30 to 12:30 on the day of Council meetings. Please stop by and say hello. ■

New Planner Joins Ross



Alex Lopez-Vega
Assistant Planner

We are very pleased to welcome Alex Lopez-Vega who joins the Planning and Building Department on Monday, October 17th filling the newly created Assistant Planner position.

Alex earned his Bachelor's degree in Urban Studies and Planning from San Francisco

State University where he became proficient in Geographic Information System (GIS) and data analysis. Prior to attending San Francisco State, he served in the military for nine years as a logistic administrator, as well as supervising and training new recruits. Alex has been a Planning intern for the City of Richmond where he worked on many residential and commercial projects. He was inspired to become a Planner in college, where he realized he had a passion for city planning. When Alex is not working on projects, he enjoys playing soccer and taking long bike rides around the Napa Valley where he resides with his wife and two dogs.

Alex's contact information is (415) 453-1453 ext. 116, alopez-vega@townofross.org.

FIRST AID FOR DISASTER RESPONSE



Join us on Saturday, November 5th to learn life-saving skills you'll need during any emergency! Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC) and Ross Valley Fire are hosting a **no-cost 4-hour training** for Ross Valley residents. You'll learn how to recognize life threats in 15 seconds, protect airways, stop bleeding, and hands-only CPR.

Saturday, November 5, 2022
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Fairfax Pavilion, 142 Bolinas Road, Fairfax

Class size is limited, and registration is required. The deadline to register is October 28th, so **register** today! For questions, contact mmiller@rossvalleyfire.org.

PLANNING RESULTS

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

Address: 21 Loma Linda Avenue - Continued to November 10, 2022 Council Meeting

HALLOWEEN NIGHT

Monday, October 31, 2022
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Shady Lane will be closed from
from Lagunitas Road to Fernhill Avenue
for annual Trick or Treaters
Happy Halloween!

Housing Element Update



The Draft Housing Element will be available to the public on October 18, 2022 for the 30 day review period. The document will be posted on the Town's website at <https://www.townofross.org/planning/page/town-ross-housing-element-update>. A Community Workshop to gather and discuss public comments on the Draft Element is scheduled for November 7th, and residents will receive a Townwide mailer announcing the Community Workshop in late October.

The Draft Housing Element will be reviewed at the December 8, 2022, Town Council meeting.

Election November 8, 2022



On November 8th, Ross residents will vote on Measure C, the renewal of the Ross School parcel tax. The district parcel tax, which has been in place for over 30 years, will:

- support programs
- attract/retain teachers
- ensure low student-to-teacher ratios
- maintain special programs including art, music, Spanish, and technology
- offset funding cuts by the state
- keep school facilities safe and well-maintained

Measure C proposes a tax of \$1,550/parcel with 3% annual adjustments for 10 years which represents over \$1M (10% of revenue) annually. An exemption for individuals 65 years or older is available and will be automatically extended if you have previously applied.



Are you ready to vote? The deadline to register to vote in the November election is October 24, 2022. Click on the links below to register or check your voter status.

[Register to Vote](#) | [Check your Registration Status](#)

The Voter's Choice Act is in effect for Marin County and the upcoming November 8, 2022 election. The Voter's Choice Act is a law that allows counties to offer voters more choices for how, when, and where they vote. Now, all active registered voters are automatically mailed a ballot, and early voting is expanded for more days at regional vote centers. Voters may vote in-person at ANY vote center in Marin County. Assigned neighborhood polling places have been replaced by regional vote centers that open at least 3 days before Election Day with more services.

PLEASE NOTE ROSS WILL NOT HAVE A POLLING PLACE. Residents can vote at ANY vote center in Marin County but there will not be one in Ross. For a list of Marin County Vote Centers and drop box locations, click on the links below.

[Marin County Vote Centers Hours & Locations](#)
[Drop Box Locations](#)

For more information or questions, visit MarinVotes.org.



Street Smarts Marin

Ross is participating in Street Smarts - an educational campaign to promote safe driving, biking, and walking here in Marin County. Additionally, a limited number of lawn signs are available to citizens on a first-come-first-serve basis.



For more information and to download materials, visit www.streetsmartmarin.org.



AGE FRIENDLY CORNER

Tips to live long and well in Ross

YOU ARE INVITED -

to a breakfast gathering for older Ross residents on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 from 9:00-11:00 am at the Crown and Crumpet Café in downtown Ross. Seats are limited, so please RSVP to Gretchen Castets at gcastets@tronofross.org.

We will gather in the beautiful outdoor patio in the back of the café. The weather may be cool, so dress warmly. Come and meet old and new friends and neighbors. Hear about opportunities to get involved with Ross School and Branson School and learn more about Measure C.

This event is sponsored by the Ross Age Friendly Task Force.

RECREATION NEWS

Happy fall to everyone! Thank you so much to all of the Ross residents that came out to the annual Ross Town Dinner and made it a night to remember of celebrating community, friendships and this beautiful place you get to call home. We were grateful to have the Bob Scott All-stars band join us once again to elevate the evening with their blues, jazz and rock & roll tunes. Big thanks to the Town Council for their support of the event and dedication to supporting events that build community and connection.



The recreation fall session is underway and we are having a blast! The soccer kids are scoring goals and the LEGO crew is building engineering wonders. The recreation staff is diligently working

on getting the winter session ready to open, so please ensure that you are signed up for the e-mail blasts, so that you know when registration is live and you can get the classes that you want your child in. To sign up for the newsletter, go to our website at www.rossrecreation.org, and click the "get on the list" link on the homepage.



The Recreation Department has been receiving a lot of questions about the Cotillion/Ballroom class for 6th & 7th graders. We will be running this class, beginning mid-March and ending in May. Although this class technically falls in our spring session, we will be opening registration this month! This class fills up very quickly, so please make sure to sign up as soon as you see that it's live. We will send out an email when the class is open.

Please feel free to reach out to the Recreation Department with any questions! You can email us at rossrec@rossrecreation.org or give us a call at (415) 453-6020.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2022

Oct 13	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Oct 14	5-8:30	pm	Live on the Common, Ross Common
Oct 18	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Oct 19	9-11:00	am	Age Friendly Breakfast, Crown & Crumpet <i>(see Page 4 for details)</i>
Oct 31	5:00-9	pm	Halloween Shady Lane Road Closure <i>(see Page 3 for details)</i>

NOVEMBER 2022

Nov 7	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
Nov 10	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Nov 11	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Veterans Day
Nov 15	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Nov 24-25	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday

DECEMBER 2022

Dec 5	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
Dec 8	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Dec 20	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Dec 26-30	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for the Christmas holiday

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
- rmarkwick@townofross.org		Town Manager	415-453-1453 x107
Planner	415-453-1453 x116	- cjohnson@townofross.org	
- alopez-vega@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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