

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



P. Beach Kuhl
Mayor

As we reach the end of 2022, I'd like to highlight some of the achievements made by the Town Council and Town staff over the past year. It's important to note that most of staff's time is devoted to providing

day to day services to the Ross community throughout the year. Public safety calls for service are responded to. Streets, storm drains, parks and facilities are maintained. Land-use issues are addressed and customers are served. Elections and public meetings are conducted properly, quality recreation programs are offered, and other important services provided.

An important part of the day-to-day

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Housing Element Update - Next Steps

After 8 months of community outreach and discussion, last night the Town Council directed staff to send the Draft 2023-31 Housing Element to Sacramento for review. Under State law, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is required to review the Draft Element as part of the update process. HCD has 90 days to complete its review and return comments to the Town.



Like other communities in the Bay Area, Ross is required to update the Housing Element of our General Plan to address local housing needs and new State laws. Amid the ongoing housing shortage in California, Ross is required by law to plan for at least 111 new housing units over the next 8 years. The Draft Housing Element incorporates strategies to help the Town meet its legal requirements while preserving the unique and historic sense of place so important to our community. These strategies include providing workforce housing for police officers, fire fighters and others who work in Ross on the Civic Center site and working with the Branson School to facilitate the construction of housing for teachers on its campus. With few vacant lots readily available for housing development, a critical part of the housing plan involves promoting and incentivizing the creation of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on existing single-family properties throughout Ross. Given their smaller size and lower costs, ADUs can provide a valuable source of housing for seniors, nannies, au pairs, and in-home caregivers as well as for students at the nearby College of Marin, teachers at Ross Elementary and the Branson School, public servants, and others who work in the area.

For more information on the Housing Element update project or to view the draft, visit: <https://www.townofross.org/planning/page/town-ross-housing-element-update>.

If you have any questions about the Housing Element update, please contact Rebecca Markwick at rmarkwick@townofross.org.

functions is management of the Town's finances. During this past year, we obtained approval of the annual audit; regularly paid bills; complied with grant and State Controller reporting requirements; and balanced the books every month. With input from the community, we approved a balanced Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget that maintains service levels, reduces the Town's pension liability and adds to the Facilities & Equipment Fund which serves as the Town's savings account for future improvements for Town facilities.

I would also like to highlight three planning related projects that were initiated or completed in 2022: completed the process to amend Branson School's Conditional Use Permit allowing the school to increase enrollment; made significant progress on the Housing Element Update process; and moved the Town's civic center project forward by initiating a Master Facilities Planning process.

Best wishes for the holiday season and for a happy and healthy New Year!

Christa Johnson, Town Manager
on behalf of Mayor Beach Kuhl ■



Fond Farewell to Ross - by Linda Lopez



Linda Lopez
Outgoing Town Clerk/
Administrative Manager

As some of you know, I will be retiring from my position as the Town Clerk/Administrative Manager at the end of December 2022, after 17 years of service. I have enjoyed my time with Ross and especially producing these Morning After Newsletters, of which this will be my last.

I began working for Ross in 2005 as an Administrative Assistant and was promoted to Administrative Manager, and then appointed as Town Clerk in 2012. In my term here I have worked with 16 Council members, held 9 elections, attended approximately 200 Council meetings, and worked with six Town Managers. My position has grown exponentially through the years with additional duties of payroll, accounts payables/receivables, and human resources being added, making it unlike any other position in Marin County. It's been challenging, exciting, overwhelming, never boring, and extremely satisfying to handle so many things successfully. I have learned a great deal in my time here and will take that with me as I enter the next exciting chapter of my life. My last day in the office will be December 20th.

Welcome to Cyndie Martel



Cyndie Martel
Incoming Town Clerk/
Administrative Mgr

The Town of Ross is pleased to welcome Cyndie Martel who joined Ross on Monday, November 28, in the role of Town Clerk/Administrative Manager. Cyndie is currently in training with Linda and will replace her when Linda retires at the end of the year.

Prior to joining the Town of Ross, Cyndie was the District Clerk/Office Manager for Tamalpais Community Services District, where she served for 6 years and received district clerk certification from the California Special District Association. Previously, she worked in the private sector as an Executive Assistant for companies in the banking, high tech, credit and biotech industries.

Cyndie said "I'm excited about my new position with the Town of Ross and look forward to being of service to residents and staff in the coming years". In her spare time, Cyndie enjoys hiking the trails in Marin, camping, traveling with friends and spending time with her family. Cyndie's contact information is (415) 453-1453, ext. 105, cmartel@townofross.org.

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the December 8, 2022 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's [December 8th](#) website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted on this page after adoption by the Council.

Address: 71 Shady Lane
Applicant: Eric Spaly
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-1 (Robbins recused, Kuhl absent)

Address: 118 Winding Way
Applicant: James & Mary Buie
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-0 (Kuhl absent)

Address: 8 North Road
Applicant: Clara & Sam Ditter
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-0 (Kuhl absent)

Address: 196 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: Cameron & Elizabeth Breitner
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-0 (Kuhl absent)

Address: 78 Shady Lane - Continued to January 12, 2023 Council Meeting

Pickleball Anyone?

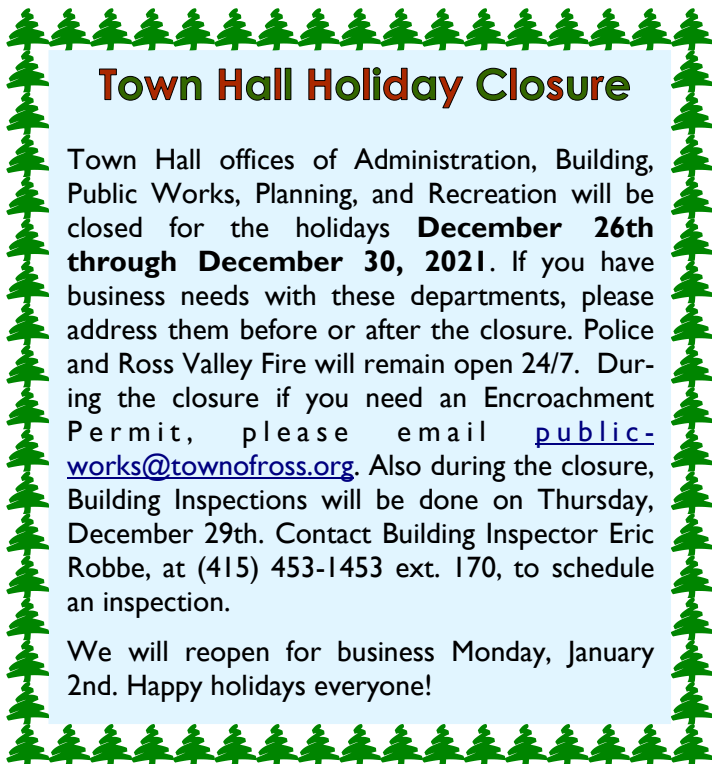


The popularity of pickleball has increased dramatically across the country and is a very social game. In response to the high demand for pickleball courts, the Council requested that Town staff explore the costs and logistics of adding pickleball courts to the Ross Town Tennis/Platform Court Facility. Town staff sent out surveys to the residents and had 165 completed surveys. The results showed an overwhelming response (71%) that there is a desire to have pickleball courts added to one tennis court to make it a multiuse resource for the community.



The survey results were brought to the December 8, 2022 Council meeting with the recommendation from Town staff to have Town Council implement a trial pickleball program by adding four pickleball court lines to one tennis court. The Town Council approved this recommendation and Town staff will now move forward with the project.

If you do not yet have a facilities court key, you can purchase one from the Ross Recreation Department at rossrec@rossrecreation.org.



Town Hall Holiday Closure

Town Hall offices of Administration, Building, Public Works, Planning, and Recreation will be closed for the holidays **December 26th through December 30, 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. Also during the closure, Building Inspections will be done on Thursday, December 29th. Contact Building Inspector Eric Robbe, at (415) 453-1453 ext. 170, to schedule an inspection.

We will reopen for business Monday, January 2nd. Happy holidays everyone!

Gretchen Castets to Leave Ross



Gretchen Castets
Recreation Manager

The Town of Ross will be losing Recreation Manager Gretchen Castets, who has announced her resignation once her position is filled. Gretchen 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. During Covid, the Recreation Department was presented with many challenges which Gretchen expertly managed. She kept Recreation going during a very difficult time. She has also masterfully overseen the Age Friendly Task Force of Ross. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors and she will be missed.

The Town has begun the recruitment process to replace her position.



Marin Sanitary 2023 Rates

The Council approved the Marin Sanitary Service (MSS) rate increase of 6.28% for 2023. 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. This year, R3 Consulting Group, Inc., has determined a 6.28% 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 \$43.43 per month in 2022 to \$46.16 per month in 2023, for the 32-gallon cart service. The proposed rate of \$46.16 is lower than the Marin County average for non-MSS service agencies of \$52.86. Of the MSS service agencies in Marin County, Ross has the second lowest rate.

AGE FRIENDLY CORNER

Tips to live long and well in Ross

Save the Date:

Please put this date on your calendar – **February 15, 2023**. The Ross Age Friendly Task Force will be holding a Valentine's celebration luncheon to honor Ross's older residents, especially those over 80 years of age.



In addition to a wonderful lunch there will be entertainment and some surprises. More information about this celebration will be in the January Morning After Newsletter. Please share this information with other older Ross residents who may not get the Morning After Newsletter.

In the meantime if you have any questions about this event, please contact rossrec@rossrecreation.org at Ross Recreation.

Happy Holidays!

Love from the Ross Age Friendly Task Force

RECREATION NEWS

As 2022 is nearing its end, the Ross Recreation Staff would like to extend a huge thank you to the Ross Community for your support and partnership in making this such a fun and successful year. The instructors work hard to create programs that are enriching, engaging and educational, and your children and families help to bring them to life with a desire to learn. It is a joy to watch all the hard work come to life and see the smiles and successes of those that participate.

The fall session has come to an end and registration is OPEN for the winter 2023 session. Many of the programs are full but you can always join the waitlist on



the Ross Recreation website at rossrec@rossrecreation.org.

The programs that do have openings right now are Academic Chess at Ross, Hip Hop (K-4th) and 7th grade Girls Ballroom. In addition to that, the second week of Holly Hoppin' Holiday Camp (12/27-12/30) has openings! This camp is held

at Phoenix Lake and is a combination of nature exploration, science, art, and a ton of FUN! It is run by Holly Salamun and her wonderful team and goes from 9am-1pm; sign up before all the spots fill up! The first week of camp (12/19-12/23) is full but get on the waitlist and the Ross Recreation staff will let you know if a spot opens.



Lastly, Kids Club is set to begin January 9, 2023. Kid's Club is the extended care program run through Ross Recreation and will be held Monday-Friday, dismissal-5pm. The options to register are 5, 3 or 2 days a week. There are openings on all days of the week, and you can register here: <https://rossrecreation.org/kidsclub/>. The Ross Recreation staff is

always happy to help navigate schedules and registration with families.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to you from the Ross Recreation Staff!

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2022

Dec 8	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Dec 13	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Dec 26-30	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for the Christmas/New Year's holidays

JANUARY 2023

Jan 9	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
Jan 12	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Jan 16	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Jan 17	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

FEBRUARY 2023

Feb 6	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
Feb 9	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Feb 20	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Presidents Day
Feb 21	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

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			

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Visit us at www.townofross.org



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

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