

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 | Issue 9 | September 2022

Mayor's Corner



P. Beach Kuhl
Mayor

August is usually viewed as a slow month, with people away on vacation and many organizations not meeting. But in Ross some important activities went forward, essentially timed for completion before school resumed.

First, repaving of the paths on Ross Common was completed, with a saving of about \$74,000 made on the contract price by the contractor and Town Engineer Rich Simonitch together devising a way to reuse the material ground off in the reconstitution of the paths.

Second, while the schools were on vacation, Police Chief Raffaello Pata arranged a tour of Ross School and Branson for

Continued on Page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

2. Student Ambassadors Program
2. Annual Ross Town Dinner
3. Planning
3. Live on the Common Recap
3. Resilient Neighborhoods
4. Annual Ross Creek Clean Up
4. Recreation
5. Calendar

Housing Element Update



Like other communities in the Bay Area, Ross is required to update the Housing Element of the 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 111 new housing units over the next 8 years. To satisfy this requirement and demonstrate that the zoning map

has adequate capacity to accommodate Ross's allocation of the regional housing need for the planning period, the Draft Housing Element will include an inventory of sites available for housing, presented in a table showing the location, size and zoning applicable to each site together with a projection of the number of housing units that can realistically be accommodated on the parcel in view of past trends and local conditions. A map of the sites will also be included. Additionally, the Draft Housing Element will also include a suite of programs that identify actions the Town will take to facilitate buildout of the inventory over the upcoming planning period, including incentives for accessory dwelling unit construction and zoning amendments to ensure consistency with new State laws.

At the September 8, 2022 Town Council meeting, the Core Components of the Housing Element were presented which include the sites map inventory and the housing action programs. The Town Council and residents had many questions and comments about the specific sites on the map and programs proposed. Great feedback was received, and staff will begin revising the draft document. You can view the staff report and documents that were reviewed at the meeting at https://www.townofross.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/town_council/meeting/4107/9.-housing_element_update.pdf.

The next step for Ross is to include the feedback from the Town Council and residents into the Draft 2023-31 Housing Element and release the document for public review. The Town will notify residents via email and the Morning After when the document is available to review on the Town's website.

local and neighboring law enforcement personnel to familiarize them with the physical layouts of the facilities. Training has been provided emphasizing, in the event of a disruption, not waiting but instead going in and resolving the problem.

With the resumption of school, there seems to be a flood of e-bikes and e-scooters around Town, renewing the need for careful and alert driving and ensuring use of required helmets.

September will bring plenty of activity. Next Wednesday, September 14, the Moya Library/Ross Historical Society will present a lunch and program about the history of the San Francisco Theological Seminary at the Marin Art and Garden Center at 11 am. Tickets must be ordered by September 9.

Some debate continues on whether to call our over-60 population aging, older, elderly or some other term, but in any case, on September 20, the first of two breakfasts presented by the Ross Age Friendly Task Force (no charge) will be held at Crown and Crummet at 9am. The second will be on October 19, same time and place.

September comes to a climax on September 30, when we can all gather at the annual Town Dinner on the Ross Common. The Town provides the tables and chairs and the band; you provide the food. It's a great old time to see old friends and make some new ones. I promise I won't make a speech. ■



Student Elections Ambassador Program Seeking Volunteers

The Marin County Department of Elections is recruiting student volunteers across Marin County to serve as Student Elections Ambassadors. Their role will be to educate their peers about the importance and fundamentals of voting, and then, through a peer-to-peer approach, engage their classmates. The program was established in 2018 when a Marin County high school student introduced the concept and worked with the Elections Department to establish the program. The Marin County Elections Department, Marin League of Women Voters (LWV), and the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) have joined forces to annually recruit civic-minded students who are interested in the electoral process.

To be eligible, students must meet one of the following criteria: 1) Students: A student who lives in Marin County or attends a Marin County school; or 2) Recent School Grads: Anyone aged 25 or younger who considers Marin County their home/community. There are no requirements to be enrolled in a college/university or currently live in Marin County.

To learn more about the program, apply and find training details, visit the County's [website page](#).

ANNUAL ROSS TOWN DINNER Friday, September 30

Registration is now open for the annual Ross Town Dinner on Friday, September 30. Please join us for this beloved Ross community event. Enjoy an evening dining potluck style with your neighbors on the Ross Common under the grove. Bring your own picnic and beverage. We provide tables, linens, chairs and live music. The Bob Scott All-Star Band returns to play jazz and R&B to compliment the evening.

Date: Friday, September 30, 2022

Time: 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Place: Ross Common

Cost: \$10 per person (register by Sept 23)

There are two ways to register:

1) Register online at:

<https://www.rossrecreation.org/ross-town-dinner/> (Payment online is by credit card only) or

2) Mail check payable to "Town of Ross" with number of guests attending to: Ross Recreation/Town Dinner, P.O. Box 117, Ross, CA 94957

Questions? Contact rossrec@rossrecreation.org.

PLANNING RESULTS

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

Address: 19 Redwood Drive
Applicant: Michael Lind
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 189 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: Jennifer & Jeffrey Bogan
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 24 Allen Avenue
Applicant: Warren & Robyn Luhning
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 2 De Witt Drive
Applicant: Tom & Linda Coates
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0



Resilient Neighborhoods brings people together and empowers them to do something about climate change by creating low-impact households, adopting sustainable lifestyle practices, strengthening communities and preparing for emergencies. Ready to take effective, measurable climate action and help build disaster-resilient communities?

Join a **Climate Action Team** by signing up to participate in the free workshop series.

Thursday Series: Starts September 15
Tuesday Series: Starts September 20

Resilient Neighborhoods has helped over 1,800 Marin residents reduce nearly 11 million annual pounds of carbon pollution. Learn more at <https://www.resilientneighborhoods.org/sign-up-for-a-team.html>.



Live on Common Recap

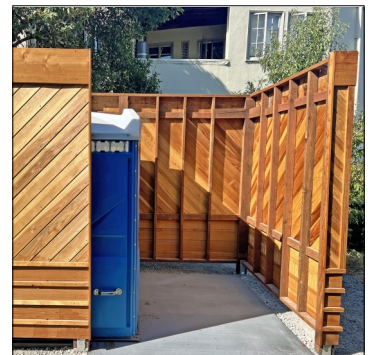
Live on the Common returned to Downtown Ross on Friday, August 26th bringing live music from the band Soul Ska, food trucks, beverages, booths, and games for all to enjoy. The Ross community enjoyed a lovely event sponsored by the Town of Ross, Ross Auxiliary, and Ross Property Owners' Association. Thank you to everyone who organized the event, and the staff and volunteers who worked the event.



New Porta Potty Enclosure

Pedestrians and bicyclists entering Natalie Coffin Greene and Frederick Allen Park may have noticed a new aesthetic addition as the porta potty enclosure project nears completion.

In a continuing effort to beautify and enhance the Town's natural setting, the Ross Property Owner's Association teamed up with the



Porta Potty Enclosure at Frederick Allen Park

Town of Ross last year to construct enclosures around the two porta potty locations which are maintained by the Town's Public Works Department. Now that the porta potty facilities have been moved into place, a final 2-foot removeable section of wall at the entry will be installed which will complete the enclosures.



Ross Creek Walk & Clean-Up Day

Please join us on **Saturday, September 17, 2022** for the Annual Ross Creek Walk and Clean-Up Day. The event begins at 9:00 AM in front of the Ross Post Office and is scheduled to finish up by noon.

Everyone is welcome to attend (Kids 12 and under are welcome to come along if supervised by an adult). Town staff will be on hand to answer questions about flooding, erosion, trees, and the maintenance responsibilities of property owners. This is a great opportunity for outdoor family fun and even perhaps an opportunity to earn credit toward a scout merit badge for participating in a conservation related project. Please wear old clothes, long pants, long sleeves and gloves. For any questions, call (415) 453-1453 ext. 163.



AGE FRIENDLY CORNER

Tips to live long and well in Ross



How can you remain active and independent for as long as possible? **The Centers for Disease Control (CDC)** has come out with 6 tips for healthy aging:

1. Eat and drink healthy
2. Move more, sit less throughout the day
3. Don't use tobacco
4. Get regular checkups
5. Know your family history
6. Be aware of changes in brain health

For more details about each of these important tips visit this website: <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/resources/infographic/healthy-aging.htm>.

RECREATION NEWS

The fall session has begun and we are excited to have a roster of both old and new class offerings. Although the session has begun, we do have space remaining in some classes including Hip Hop, Chess, Ukulele, Chi Gong (adult) and a few others. Please find a full listing of our fall class offerings on our website at rossrecreation.org, and reach out with any questions.



In addition to our fall programs, we have opened winter basketball registration that begins in January. Please make sure to sign up for basketball ASAP, as the practices fill very quickly!

Thank you to all that came out to the Live on the Common event and celebrated this beautiful town with music, food, dancing, games and lots of smiles and laughter. RPOA and the Town co-sponsored this and we are looking forward to the next Live on the Common on Friday, October 14th, mark your calendars!



Lastly, the Age Friendly Task force is delighted to be hosting two breakfast gatherings at Crown & Crumpet's back patio, over the next couple of months. Please spread the word to those in the community that you think would be interested in attending. The September 20th gathering will have Andrew Hill as the guest speaker who will talk to the group about the housing element and the progress being made on that. The October 19th gathering will have Amy Lewis from Ross School PTO and Craig Slayen, a Branson parent, as the guest speakers. Their focus is on finding opportunities for intergenerational connections between the schools and the community. We are looking forward to seeing you there! Contact Gretchen Castets at gcastets@townofross.org to reserve your spot.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2022

Sep 16	5:30-9 pm	<u>Harvest Dinner Fundraiser</u> , Marin Art & Garden Center
Sep 17	9-12:00 pm	Annual Ross Creek Clean Up (<i>see Page 4 for details</i>)
Sep 20	9-11:00 am	Age Friendly Breakfast, Crown & Crumpet
Sep 20	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Sep 30	5:30 pm	Annual Ross Town Dinner, Ross Common (<i>see Page 2 for details</i>)

OCTOBER 2022

Oct 10	7:00 pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
Oct 13	6:00 pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Oct 14	4:00-8 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

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

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	
- nseoni@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

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.