

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Mayor Elizabeth Brekhus

As some of you may know the Council elects a new mayor in June and I was honored to be nominated and selected by the Council. This will be my 12th year on Town Council and my third term as mayor. It is largely a ceremonial role whereby the mayor organizes the agenda in consultation with staff, runs the meeting and acts as a primary point of contact for the Council. The real decision-making continues to be via the five members of the Council.

The Council does a lot of work behind the scenes that many people don't know about. For example, the Council serves on committees and other agencies throughout Marin, we adopt annual budgets that have to deal with pensions, liabilities, and plans for capital improvements and upgrades, often years out, and we have to pass an insane amount of laws to be in compliance with state law that requires we adopt various rules and regulations. It never ceases to amaze me how much work is required to run a small town.

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JULY 4TH 2023

THANK YOU!

NOT ONLY WAS THIS YEARS' PARADE THE BIGGEST,
IT WAS THE BEST PARADE YET!
IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU THAT THE TOWN OF ROSS
4TH OF JULY PARADE WAS SO SUCCESSFUL.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!
ROSS RECREATION



SAVE THE DATE...

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 AT 11 AM

The **STATE OF THE TOWN OF ROSS** will be the subject of a program by Mayor Elizabeth Brekhus and Town Manager Christa Johnson.

The event will be presented by the Ross Historical Society/Moya Library and held in the Livermore Pavilion at the Marin Art and Garden Center. A luncheon will follow.

Details will be available soon at www.moya-rhs.org.

In the next year, a number of very important decisions will have to be made. First, the Town is part of Ross Valley Fire Department ("RVFD"), which will be considering a potential merger or shared services with Central Marin Fire Department. Second, the Town will have to decide the path forward with Ross Valley Fire Department given some recent conflict between RVFD Board Members. Other members of the RVFD Board have demanded that Ross pay for improvements to the Town of San Anselmo and Town of Fairfax fire stations, notwithstanding a contractual agreement that requires each Town to pay for the improvement of their own fire station. The request is unprecedented and it is contrary to the contract that the Towns of Ross, Fairfax and San Anselmo signed. As elected officials, it is our job to use taxpayer money wisely and not to give away public funds.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to the Ross Rec staff for once again putting on a fun 4th of July event for the Town. The Ross Police Officers' Association's food stand was a big hit and the dog contest was a fun new addition. It was great to see so many residents on the 4th and I know I speak for the entire Council when I say riding in the parade and throwing candy to the children is my absolute favorite Council duty.

I look forward to working with the Council and staff in the coming months, and if you happen to have any questions or concerns regarding the Town, please let me know. ~Mayor Elizabeth Brekhus

Laurel Grove Pedestrian Pathway Project

Construction contract awarded for the Laurel Grove Pedestrian Pathway Project

The Ross Town Council awarded the construction contract for the first segment of the "Laurel Grove Safe Pathway Project" at the June 15 council meeting to Maggiore & Ghilotti Inc. in the amount of \$737,747. The Town received 2 bids and after examination, the Public Works Director determined that Maggiore & Ghilotti Inc. was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

The work to be performed under this contract consists of installing 1,200 feet of new asphalt pathway and concrete barrier from the Marin Art and Garden Center up to the private driveway known as "Monte Alegre". The work will involve complete reconstruction of the Laurel Grove pavement with new lane striping and stamped asphalt pedestrian "havens" at Walters Road and Monte Alegre. Work is expected to begin the week of July 10th. The next segment, scheduled for Spring of 2024, will continue the pathway and roadway reconstruction up to the Canyon Road intersection.



Artist's Rendering

Disasters Don't Plan Ahead But You Can!

What's Your Preparedness Plan?

Two Free Events in August can help you prepare for a disaster:

Tuesday, August 15, noon-1:00pm

San Anselmo Library
110 Tunstead Avenue

- ⇒ Learn the 5 simple steps to prepare for a disaster
 - ⇒ Alerts & Warnings
 - ⇒ Evacuation Strategy
 - ⇒ Wildfire Science

Brought to you by Ross Valley Fire & San Rafael Fire

Thursday, August 24, 6:30pm-7:30pm

Fairfax Library
2097 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

- ⇒ Get Alerts
 - ⇒ Make a Wildfire Evacuation Plan
 - ⇒ Pack a Go Bag
 - ⇒ Assemble a Stay Box
 - ⇒ Help Friends & Neighbors Get Ready
- Brought to you by Fire Safe Marin & Ross Valley Fire

For questions, please contact Miranda Miller at mmiller@rossvalleyfire.org



PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the July 13, 2023 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's July 13 website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council.

Address: 18 Canyon Road
Applicant: Debra Pell
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 4 Chestnut Avenue
Applicant: Craig & Haley Grevelding
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Kuhl recused)

AGE FRIENDLY CORNER

Age Friendly network was established by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2010. Age Friendly fosters healthy active aging to enable older adults to age safely and comfortably in a place that is right for them.

The Ross Age Friendly Task Force was formed in 2018, meets monthly to provide ideas on social participation, communication, emergency preparedness, community participation and health/wellness information.

To implement these ideas, Age Friendly Ross has sponsored lunches and breakfasts to discuss current matters, assisted with emergency preparedness meetings, and worked with Ross Rec to provide classes for older adults. We contribute to the Town of Ross Morning After publication with tips and other information of interest to older adults and the community.

Ross Age Friendly coordinates with other Ross organizations, town staff, Town Council members and Marin non-profits serving older adults.

Nearly 1/3 of the Ross community are adults over the age of 60 and the percentage is growing. Come join us.

Contact us at agefriendly@townofross.org. All are welcome.



The Morning After

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



National Night Out is back! The Ross Police Department will host an opportunity for our community to meet their Chief and some officers on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 from 4:30 to 7PM.

National Night Out is a community engagement initiative that has been going strong for 40 years. 38 Million neighbors have participated in more than 16,000 communities nationwide.

NNO will be located on the green next to the Post Office. Come and meet your public safety team.

Fire-Smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners

July Fire-smart Tips Mindfully Mulch

- **Mulch:** material spread over the surface of the soil to help reduce water evaporation, add organic material to soil, suppress weeds, reduce erosion and compaction and help maintain a more even soil temperature and health.
- **0 feet to 5 feet from your house:** non-combustible mulch such as stone, rock, pavers, decomposed granite, or gravel.
- **5 feet to 30 feet from your home:** composted wood chips are considered the best choice for residential landscapes. Limit mulch depth to two inches. Separate wood chip areas with non-combustible hardscaping materials to slow fire.
- **30 feet and beyond from your home:** larger, composted or non-composted wood chips or bark nuggets up to a depth of 3 inches.
- **Hazardous mulches to avoid:** shredded western red cedar (gorilla hair) or pine needles. Do not use any fine, stringy mulches, they burn faster than larger chunks.



FOR MORE FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPING INFORMATION VISIT UC MARIN MASTER GARDENER WEBSITE: <http://ucanr.edu/ucmarinmgfiresmart>



TOWN OF ROSS 4TH OF JULY PATRIOTIC POOCH

With support from the community and its partners, the Ross Recreation Department ran a successful 4th of July parade and festival! Highlighting the post event activities was the newly established **Patriotic Pooch** dog costume contest. Three highly esteemed judges, Councilmember Julie McMillan, Mallory Beren and Hayden Wagner awarded top prizes to canines in the following categories: Best Costume for Dogs 30 lbs and Under, Best Costume for Dogs 30lbs and Over, Best Costume for Human & Dog Pair, and Overall Patriotic Pooch. Winners walked away with toys, treats and award certificates naming them "Top Dog." The success of

Patriotic Pooch marked the start of a new tradition at the Town of Ross 4th of July and the Recreation Department has their tail wagging with excitement.



Dog Snags Burger

At a recent manager's meeting, the Ross Police Department reported only one case of questionable behavior during the recent July 4th event. A basset hound was seen snagging a burger at the police table. No funds were lost as the burgers were free...

After careful investigation, the dog, named Potato, was found to belong to William Hauser, Ross School—Class of 2000, and the son of Councilmember Elizabeth Robbins.

The police learned Potato spent untold hours in dog obedience school, which did not seem to help in this situation, as she helped herself to a free lunch!!



RECREATION NEWS

SUMMER CAMP AND FALL PROGRAM

REGISTRATION ARE OPEN!

Register online at www.rossrecreation.org or by calling 415.453.6020.

SUMMER FUN FOR YOUTH! The following programs still have space available:

- ◆ Holly Hoppin Nature Play Adventure at Phoenix Lake (Grades 1-5)
- ◆ Sporty Girl Sports Camp (Grades 1-6)
- ◆ Top Gun Session with Cameron Perry (Grades 1-5)
- ◆ Gone Fishin'! (Grades 1-5)
- ◆ Off the Block S.T.E.M. with LEGO (Grades 1-5)

SUMMER FUN FOR ADULTS!

- ◆ Tennis court keys are available for \$50. Valid July through October. Proof of residency is required.
- ◆ Learn to play Pickle Ball and Tennis, or sharpen your skills with our new classes!

FALL 2023-24 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

- ◆ Youth programs begin 8/22, the first day of classes. Classes are available at both Ross School and Bacich.
- ◆ Kids Club After School is open for the 2023-24 academic year! Flexible days and drop-ins available. Discounts for multiple days! Open to all kids grades K-5. The program is run daily Monday-Friday at school dismissal time until 5:00pm.
- ◆ The Father-Daughter Dance is back! Join us for a night of fun and dancing.
- ◆ Kinder soccer on Tuesdays.
- ◆ And much more!

ROSS RECREATION DEPARTMENT

KIDS CLUB AFTERSCHOOL IS OPEN TO GRADES K-5 AND FOLLOWS THE ROSS SCHOOL CALENDAR. LOCATED INSIDE THE RECREATION CLASSROOM, KIDS WILL ENJOY INDOOR & OUTDOOR PLAY, ARTS, CRAFTS, AND HOMEWORK HELP. MONDAY - FRIDAY AT "DISMISSAL TIME" UNTIL 5PM. DROP-IN AVAILABLE. FLEXIBLE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE. DISCOUNTS FOR MULTIPLE DAY REGISTRATIONS (3 OR MORE DAYS).

KIDS CLUB IS BACK!

REGISTER AT ROSSRECREATION.ORG/KIDSClub OR 415-453-6020

To see a full list of Summer & Fall offerings visit

www.rossrecreation.org.

If a class you want is full, be sure to get on the waitlist!



ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2023

July 18 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

August 2023

August 1 5:00 pm National Night Out (grassy area near post office)
August 7 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
August 15 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
August 24 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
August 25 4:30 pm Live on the Common

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sept 4 All Day Town Hall Administrative Offices Closed (Labor Day)
Sept 7 11:00 am State of the Town of Ross (Livermore Pavilion at MAGC)
Sept 11 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
Sept 14 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Sept 19 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Sept 22 5:30 pm Ross Town Dinner (Ross Common)

OCTOBER 2023

Oct 9 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
Oct 12 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Oct 17 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
- cmartel@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/Bldg Interim Dir	415-453-1453 x121	Ross Valley Fire Dept	415-258-4686
- dwoltering@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 cmartel@townofross.org

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