

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

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### Mayor's Corner



Mayor P. Beach Kuhl

This month marks the end of my third time around as mayor of Ross. As you probably are aware, the positions of mayor and mayor pro tempore are filled by members of the

Council selected by the council membership to represent the town to the public and the press and to guide the direction which the town takes by setting the agendas of our meetings to include the matters which need attention. At our June meeting we will have selected the individuals to perform those duties for the next year. Typically, but not always, year-to-year continuity is provided by selection of the previous year's mayor pro tempore as the new mayor. A returning councilmember is selected as new mayor pro tempore, whose service in that role provides the necessary exposure to the town's operation to provide the experience for the next year's continuity.

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### Dedication of Bald Hill

Bald Hill, the iconic 1132-foot mountain visible throughout the Ross Valley, has been acquired as permanent open space! Preserving the property, which had been privately owned by a single family for over 50 years, has long been a goal of conservationists.

A ceremony to unveil a plaque acknowledging the individuals and institutions that helped make the Bald Hill acquisition possible was held on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Unveiling the plaque, which is located at the base of Bald Hill in Natalie Coffin Greene Park, are Council Member Elizabeth Robbins, Dan Kalafatas, and San Anselmo Open Space Committee Chair Jonathan Braun (holding a sign from an

unsuccessful 1990 bond measure), who have worked for the past three years to acquire Bald Hill.



### NEW APPOINTMENTS

At the June 15, 2023 Ross Town Council Meeting, the following appointments were made:

- ◆ Mayor: Elizabeth Brekhus
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tempore: Bill Kircher

Please congratulate them when you see them out and about town!

With two, and perhaps three, of our councilmembers whose terms run out early next year not seeking reelection, it will be vital that we have knowledgeable residents ready to run to fill those vacancies. If any of you would consider running, I hope you will feel free to contact any one of the current councilmembers to learn what the job entails.

Before I end, I need to offer my thanks to the many who have supported me during this past year. I won't attempt to mention everyone by name but the smooth way that our various staff departments perform their functions is proof of their good work. So, thanks to our entire Ross staff, including several interim people who have stepped in to fill gaps while we recruited permanent employees.

There are a couple people I do need to mention specifically for their roles in making things easy for me personally. First, thanks to Christa Johnson, our town manager. She has always been available and quick to respond to situations that need attention. And she always does it with a smile. Her good judgment delivered a lot of quick resolutions of what could have become difficult situations. Similar thanks must go to our town administrative manager and clerk, Cyndie Martel. Cyndie managed effortlessly to absorb all the little things that go into taking over a smooth running operation with a smile and the solution to how to get things done efficiently. The support of these two made the job of being mayor a piece of cake. Sincere thanks to both and thanks to all the rest of our town staff.

Most importantly, I want to thank you, the residents of our town, for the support you provide all of us. I greatly appreciate the many communications you send us. Both the ones with helpful suggestions and the ones with critical comments have been useful in keeping me on my toes and moving forward. I recognize that without your input and support, this year would not have been the pleasant experience that it has been. ~~Mayor P. Beach Kuhl ■

### ***Dedicated Volunteer Christine Adams***

Christine Adams has been an active volunteer with the Town of Ross Police Department since 2014. You may have seen her around as she has assisted with numerous events such as facilitating the Little League/Girls softball parade gathering other Marin agencies assistance to ensure the parade was a success for our kids; setting up dates for Boy Scout Troops to tour the Police/Fire Department, assisting in organizing the annual Halloween Shady Lane street party, which got bigger each year, including securing a tent purchased by the Ross Police Officers' Association allowing us to provide not just our glow sticks but serving candy, water and dog treats to our canine trick-or-treaters. The tent addition served as a huge aid in reuniting lost children with their parents.



Christine represented our Police Department during the 2017-2019 annual Special Olympics handing out medals/trophies and photographing all the different law enforcement officers from several agencies with the participants.

In the past 2 years, Christine was able to secure a spot at the Winterfest activities where Chief Pata, Sergeants Adams & Moy and the rest of the department officers served 25 dozen Krispy Kreme donuts and hot chocolate.

### **JUNE IS PRIDE AWARENESS MONTH!**

You may have seen different kinds of Pride flags at community events and parades, outside people's homes, on crosswalks, and even raised over Capitol buildings throughout the country. Flags are sociopolitical symbols of community membership, unity, and visibility. Over the years, the Pride flag has evolved to promote greater inclusion and to recognize the many communities that celebrate Pride.

You may be familiar with the rainbow-striped Pride flag but in recent years, this flag has been updated and expanded to represent the intersectional diversity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and Two-Spirit (LGBTQIA2-S) communities.

Pride Month commemorates years of struggle for civil rights and the ongoing pursuit of equal justice



under the law for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and Two-Spirit (LGBTQIA2-S) communities, as well as their accomplishments.

## PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the June 15, 2023 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's June 15 website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council.

**Address:** 1 Garden Road  
**Applicant:** Nancy and Dennis Thompson  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 5-0-0

**Address:** 7 Willow Hill Road  
**Applicant:** Scott Grace  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 4-0-1 (Kuhl recused)

**Address:** 3 Skyland Way  
**Applicant:** Stephen and Hanna Ensley  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 5-0-0

**Address:** 101 Upper Road  
**Applicant:** Jessica and Lexi Viripaeff  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 5-0-0



### Recognizing Barb Reher for 5 years of Service

Barb Reher has been a permit technician with the Town of Ross for five years. In the 15 years prior, she worked for the City of San Rafael as a permit technician. Barb received her Bachelor of Science in Zoology from Ohio University and currently lives with her daughter, 2 dogs, 1 cat and many fish in San Rafael.

Here, in Ross, she receives and processes building and planning applications, assists residents by phone, at the counter and by email. She also schedules all resale inspections and answers many general questions from residents or finds the right person to do so. She does all of this with kindness, grace, and a good sense of humor. Barb is being acknowledged for her hard work and dedication these past five years.

## Fire-Smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners

### June: Clean up Zone Zero – 0-5' From Your Home Is Most Critical

- Woody plants, yard debris and mulch near structures can easily ignite from flying embers. Remove these items from the first five feet of structures.
- Clean-up areas where wind eddies deposit leaf and plant litter along the perimeter of your home, on the roof, and under decks.
- Remove dead, damaged and diseased plant branches, trees and shrubs. Dispose of the material in your green waste bin.
- Move common combustible fire hazards as far away from your house as possible – or indoors immediately if a nearby fire threatens. These combustible items might include things such as brooms, rakes, plastic waste bins, wood piles and natural fiber door mats.



FOR MORE FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPING INFORMATION VISIT UC MARIN MASTER GARDENER

WEBSITE: <http://ucanr.edu/ucmarinmgfiresmart>



# AGE FRIENDLY CORNER

These folks make up the Age Friendly Task Force. They meet once a month at the Crown & Crumpet Café to work to bring those 60+ together for social gatherings, such as lunches and Ross Rec classes. They also work to bring amenities such as benches to the Common.

The wonderful thing about this group is that they respectfully listen to each others ideas and make joint decisions about how best to bring those 60+ together for some fun.

You can learn more about Age Friendly World [here](#).



## ROSS 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY CELEBRATION TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2023

It's Independence Day so come out in your RED, WHITE & BLUE and be a part of the parade in Ross! Once again, the Town of Ross will start the festivities with our very own spectacular, one of a kind, Independence Day Parade! Come and join the fun at the Town of Ross 4th of July celebration on **Tuesday, July 4th**. The parade kicks off the celebration at 11:00 a.m. with Ross PD, Ross Fire, marching bands, music, Uncle Sam himself, dogs on parade, and floats of all shapes and sizes. A picnic in Ross Common follows the parade with great food, games for kids, music, and more!

To be a part of the 2023 parade, please complete this short google form [HERE](#).

For more information, please contact [rossrec@rossrecreation.org](mailto:rossrec@rossrecreation.org) or 415-453-6020.

# RECREATION NEWS

## SUMMER CAMP AND PROGRAM REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Register online at [www.rossrecreation.org](http://www.rossrecreation.org) or by calling 415.453.6020.

### FUN FOR YOUTH!

- ◆ Holly Hoppin Nature Play Adventure at Phoenix Lake (Grades 1-5)
- ◆ Ross Bears Kinder Camp (Entering Kindergarten)
- ◆ Music With Dani (Toddlers/Preschool)
- ◆ Dance Remix Camp (Kinder-3rd grade)
- ◆ 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 (Grades1-5)
- ◆ AND MORE!

### FUN FOR ADULTS!

- ◆ Learn to play Tennis or sharpen up your skills for the summer season
- ◆ Take a Chi Gong class and use exercise to optimize energy within the body, mind, and spirit, with the goal of improving and maintaining health and well-being by practicing
- ◆ Watch for new Pickleball Classes and tournaments!

To see a full list of Spring offerings: [www.rossrecreation.org](http://www.rossrecreation.org).

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



### It's time to play PICKLEBALL!

New pickleball lines for four courts and portable nets were recently installed at the south courts at Fredrick S. Allen Park. Call 415.453.6020 to purchase your access key. Keys are \$100.



# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JUNE 2023

June 19 All Day Juneteenth Holiday, Town Hall Administrative Offices Closed  
 June 20 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

## JULY 2023

July 4 All Day Town Hall Administrative Offices Closed  
 July 10 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall  
 July 13 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)  
 July 18 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

## August 2023

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)

## SEPTEMBER 2023

Sept 4 All Day Town Hall Administrative Offices Closed (Labor Day)  
 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)

## CONTACT US

Administration Office	415-453-1453 x105	Police Department	415-453-1453, Opt. 2
- <a href="mailto:cmartel@townofross.org">cmartel@townofross.org</a>		- <a href="mailto:rpata@townofross.org">rpata@townofross.org</a>	
Building Department	415-453-1453 x106	Public Works Director	415-453-1453 x115
- <a href="mailto:breher@townofross.org">breher@townofross.org</a>		- <a href="mailto:rsimonitch@townofross.org">rsimonitch@townofross.org</a>	
Bldg Inspection Hotline	415-453-1453 x170	Recreation Department	415-453-6020
- <a href="mailto:erobbe@townofross.org">erobbe@townofross.org</a>		- <a href="mailto:rossrec@rossrecreation.org">rossrec@rossrecreation.org</a>	
Planning/Building Interim Dir	415-453-1453 x116	Ross Valley Fire Dept	415-258-4686
- <a href="mailto:TBD@townofross.org">TBD@townofross.org</a>		Town Manager	415-453-1453 x107
Planner	415-453-1453 x116	- <a href="mailto:cjohnson@townofross.org">cjohnson@townofross.org</a>	
- <a href="mailto:alopez-vega@townofross.org">alopez-vega@townofross.org</a>			

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Visit us at [www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org)



We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email [cmartel@townofross.org](mailto:cmartel@townofross.org)

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