

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 | Issue 5 | May 2023

### Mayor's Corner



Mayor P. Beach Kuhl

The Ross Town Council frequently deals with routine matters by considering them on our consent calendar, where they can be passed without discussion. They are placed on this calendar when it appears they are not at all

controversial. For example, on this month's consent calendar we will approve the minutes of our previous month's meeting, authorizations of certain payments or acceptance of routine reports. These matters are quickly handled because they are simple and uncontroversial. However, one item we face this month is not on the consent agenda although it is difficult to imagine any opposition. Indeed, it has drawn a greater volume of supportive correspondence from our residents than any other matter I can recall in my time on the

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### Dear Town of Ross Residents:

*We are pleased to invite you to attend the Town of Ross Facility Master Plan Open House and Guided Tours.*

*The Conceptual Design Options to be presented offer solutions to address the Civic Center building and site deficiencies.*

*To facilitate effective Town operations and emergency services that can better serve the community, recommended upgrades include:*

- ◆ *entry drive realignment for improved vehicular circulation and access*
- ◆ *functional reorganization of departments to promote collaboration and efficient productivity*
- ◆ *accessibility compliance upgrades*

*Please join us at Town Hall any time between 4:00pm and 6:30pm to:*

- ◆ *learn more about the Conceptual Design Options*
- ◆ *engage in discussions and share your thoughts*
- ◆ *support the Town's unique historic presence while embracing future potential*

***Please register for the Open House and Guided Tours [here](#).***

**Date: Monday May 22, 2023**

**Time: 4:00 - 6:30pm**

**Where: TOWN HALL, 31 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Ross, CA 94957**

For more information call or email:

Rebecca Markwick, Planning & Building Director

Email: [rmarkwick@townofross.org](mailto:rmarkwick@townofross.org)

Tel. (415) 453-1453 ext. 121

[www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org)



Council. It deserves further comment.

The resolution arises from the discovery on the morning of April 22, on the lawns and drive-ways of a substantial number of the residents of our and neighboring communities, a very offensive antisemitic hate speech paper in a sandwich bag. The identity of the person or persons responsible for creating and distributing this despicable document remains unknown and, because of free speech rights granted under the First Amendment of our Constitution, its distribution may not even be a crime. Nonetheless, it is a very disturbing event which cannot be condemned strongly enough, and the volume of correspondence we have received about it supports our Council making clear just where Ross stands on this issue as something far more than merely a consent item, passed by quickly on our consent calendar. We condemn such behavior and regret the mental suffering it has caused us and our neighbors.

~~Mayor P. Beach Kuhl ■

## MAY IS NATIONAL BIKE MONTH!

Ross Police encourage people to get active and safely take bike rides. So let's look out for one another and share the road, share the responsibility.

The following safety tips are suggested for bicyclists and drivers:

### Drivers

- Slow down and follow the speed limit. Be careful traveling through intersections.
- Look carefully for bicyclists and pedestrians before making a turn or opening a car door near streets or bike paths.
- Be patient when traveling behind a bicyclist and give them space when passing. California law requires drivers to change a lane, when possible, to pass bicyclists.
- Never drive distracted or im-paired.



### Bike Riders

- Use lights at night.
- Although not required for riders 18 and older, always wear a properly secured helmet. Helmets significantly reduce the chance of a head injury in the event of a crash.
- Bicyclists must travel in the same direction of traffic and have the same requirements as any slow-moving vehicle.
- Yield to pedestrians, just as a driver would. Pedestrians have the right-of-way within marked or unmarked cross-walks at intersections.

## Defensible Space Evaluations Happening in the Kentfield and Ross neighborhoods surrounding Laurel Grove

Uniformed Fire Inspectors will conduct **Wildfire De-fensible Space and Home Hardening Evaluations** on residential properties starting at Kentfield's Wolf Grade moving west to Ross as early as 5/1/23 ([map](#)).

Inspectors will confirm that you have completed *vegetation maintenance required by law*. They will also provide recommendations for steps that may provide additional protection from wildfires. Property owners are required to maintain their properties' vegetation at all times during fire-season, and should not wait for an inspection to begin work.

You can access prior defensible space reports by visiting <http://dspace.marinwildfire.org> and entering your address. If you do not have your property's unique code, follow the prompts to request one.

Online reports are only available to property owners, renters, and authorized representatives. Evaluations are funded through Marin Tax Measure C (2020), Marin Wild-fire Prevention Authority, Kentfield Fire Protection District and Ross Valley Fire Department.

Please contact [dspace@marinwildfire.org](mailto:dspace@marinwildfire.org) or (415) 275-1185 with questions or for assistance accessing an online report.

# PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the May 11, 2023 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's May 11 website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council.

**Address: 74 Baywood Avenue**  
**Applicant: Michael and Renad Cieplinski**  
**Council Action: Approved with conditions**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 15 Makin Grade**  
**Applicant: Cameron and Dave Rivinus**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 63 Laurel Grove**  
**Applicant: Joshua Schiller**  
**Council Action: Approved with conditions**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-1-1 (Kircher recused)**

## Emergency Preparedness What's your emergency plan?



**June 13, 2023**

**2:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

**Fairfax Library, 2097 Sir Francis Drake Blvd**

Residents of Ross Valley and Central Marin, please join us to learn how to prepare yourselves, your family, and your neighborhood for emergencies. **This is a free event!**

**Drop-ins welcome  
or Scan QR Code to Register**



**READY** **MARIN COUNTY**  
**marin** **FREE LIBRARY**

In partnership with Ross Valley Fire, Central Marin Fire, Ready Marin, and Fairfax Library

If you have questions, please contact Miranda Miller [mmiller@grossvalleyfire.org](mailto:mmiller@grossvalleyfire.org)

## Fire-Smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners

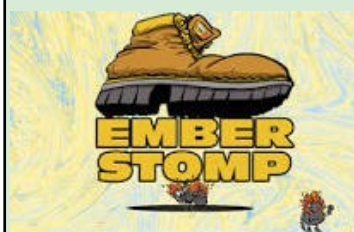
### May: Maintain plants along exit routes from your home

- ◆ Identify the best escape routes to your vehicle and exiting your property.
- ◆ Assess the health and condition of the plants along each route. Keep vegetation maintained – pruned back and hydrated.
- ◆ Remove dead plant material and plant debris.
- ◆ Remove vines on wooden gates, near doors or windows.
- ◆ Remove or move jute doormats, wood planters, outdoor furniture, and other combustible materials from your exits.
- ◆ Replace wood gates, arbors, or trellises along your exits with non-combustible materials.
- ◆ Have evacuation tags easily accessible, post at highly visible locations when you evacuate. This alerts fire personnel that you have left the property. (Check with your local fire department for signs.)
- ◆ Help make your hose locations obvious for fire personnel



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

**Come Visit Us!** The UC Marin Master Gardener's Fire-Smart Landscape team will have a booth at the Ember Stomp event on May 20th at the Marin Civic Center Fairgrounds 11am-5pm. We'll be on hand to answer questions about



how to improve the fire resilience of your landscape. With proper planning and maintenance, you can create a landscape that helps protect your garden and home when wild-fire threatens.

## Age Friendly Breakfast Gathering for Ross Residents

Learn ways to protect yourself against financial abuse and scams

Wednesday, June 21st 10am - 11:30am Branson School

Join **Age Friendly Ross** for a gathering on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 from 10-11:30 am at Branson School at 39 Fernhill Avenue in Ross.

**Marin's Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST)** will present information on how to avoid financial abuse and protect against common financial scams.

Branson school is hosting the event and light breakfast will be provided.

Space is limited so please **RSVP by June 14th** to Mike Langford, Interim Recreation Manager, at [agefriendly@townofross.org](mailto:agefriendly@townofross.org) or (415) 453-6020.

Please enter Branson and park in the front parking lot past the entrance. We will be meeting in the "Old Dining Hall" to the right of the Branson School entrance.

See you there!

Artwork by Cedars artist Tom Schmidt

## Ember Stomp 2023

**Save the Date: Saturday, May 20**

Join us for Marin's second annual wildfire prevention festival, **Ember Stomp** at the Marin Civic Center Fairgrounds from **11AM-5PM**.

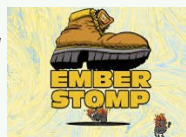
We are all in this together! **Ember Stomp** invites residents to learn their role in being part of a fire-adapted community and how we can all prepare for wildfire. This year offers a bigger space with new music, entertainment, exhibits, vendors and a live burn demonstration. This **FREE** event is fun for the whole family.

Join the fun and be part of the solution – lowering Marin's risk of wildfire together!

This event wouldn't be possible without the support of following major donors: The County of Marin, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Inc, Fortress Fire Retardant Systems, Fire Aside, and Vulcan Vents.

### Festival Highlights:

[Exhibits](#)  
[Wildfire Products and Services](#)  
[Music and Food](#)  
[Kids Zone](#)



Adapting to Wildfire

# 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

## MAY 2023

May 12	4:30-8:30 pm	Live on the Common
May 16	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
May 22	4-6:30 pm	Town Hall Meeting and Facility Tours
May 31	6:00 pm	Special Town Council Meeting-EIR Certification (Town Hall & Zoom)

## JUNE 2023

June 5	7:00 pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
June 15	6:00 pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
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 15	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
August 24	6:00 pm	Town Council 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 Director	415-453-1453 x121	Ross Valley Fire Dept	415-258-4686
- <a href="mailto:rmarkwick@townofross.org">rmarkwick@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>			

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](http://www.townofross.org)



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

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