

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 | Issue 12 | December 2015

Mayor's Corner



Katie Hoertkorn

The Ross holiday season was officially kicked off last Sunday afternoon with our Winter Sing-Along and tree lighting ceremony, courtesy of the Ross Auxiliary. The festive ceremony began with hot cocoa and cookies, compliments of the Ross Café (thank you for your thoughtfulness), and performances by the Branson Choir, the Ross School Chorus and from the "little tykes" of the St. John's preschool. Soon thereafter Santa arrived and our stately live Christmas tree was lit. Many thanks to Dana Lee and Abbi Adams for organizing the event as well as to all the many participants who shared in the festivities.

Once again, many thanks to the Ross Property Owners Association for the many garlands and wreaths that decorate

Continued on Page 2

New Town Planner Hired

The Town of Ross is pleased to welcome Heidi Scoble as the new full-time Planning Manager. Heidi began on November 30th and replaces Elise Semonian, who left her position in April 2015. Heidi brings a broad range of planning experience working in both the public and private sectors with over 17 years in planning. She is known for her strong planning expertise, excellent customer service, strong presentation skills, willingness to take on challenges, and high energy.



Heidi Scoble
Planning Manager

Prior to joining Ross, Heidi was a Planner with the County of Marin where she worked on a wide variety of projects including some that were very complex. She was also a Planner with Sausalito for eight years, as well as a Planner in Truckee for five years. In addition, she has worked in the private sector as a Principal Planner. Her variety of experience gives her the expertise in understanding and responding to the various perspectives of the public sector, private sector applicants, and resident stakeholders. We are very excited to have her join the Town of Ross!

Heidi's hours open to the public will be Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, with afternoon hours available by appointment. She can be reached at hscoble@townofross.org, (415) 453-1453 ext. 121. ■

IN THIS ISSUE

2. Marin Commission on Aging
3. Planning
3. Police
3. Maintenance Worker Position
3. Committee Appointments
4. Town Hall Holiday Closure
4. Recreation
5. Calendar

Winter Preparedness is Now



The Town continues to prepare for the rainy season which is now upon us. Property owners are reminded to please continue the maintenance of all watercourses that pass over, under, and in many cases, around their property. Whether it is an open ditch or a culvert on, or adjacent to your property, they are to be kept clean and free of vegetation and debris that can obstruct the natural flow of water. Please help by checking in and around your property for possible

Continued on Page 2



Mayor's Corner - continued from page 1

downtown, the Lagunitas Bridge and Town Hall. Their energy and enthusiasm lends a great deal of warmth to this festive season!

We want to welcome Heidi Scoble, our new Town Planner. Early in the New Year, the Ross Council expects to review our consultant's report regarding the building and planning fee schedule. Additionally, with flood control a major concern, we are currently completing multiple projects designed to mitigate water flow issues. Please double check your own winter preparations, trees limbs trimmed where needed, culverts clear of debris, etc. Early next year we will be considering the Winship Bridge replacement, and will welcome your input on this matter. Finally, thanks to all the residents who responded to the Post Office's plea last month to pick up packages AND did pick them up!



I will be in front of the Ross Post Office, January 13th from 1:15-2:30 p.m., just before next month's Council meeting. I look forward to hearing any of your concerns or questions, or simply having the opportunity to meet you.

We are sad to hear of the passing of former Council Member George Dirkes. He served on the Council from 1984 to 1988 and was Mayor in 1985. He will be missed.

On behalf of the Ross Town Council and the town employees, I want to wish you all a happy holiday season, and a happy and healthy New Year! ■

Winter Preparedness

continued from page 1



obstructions of creeks and drainage courses and take the appropriate actions. Please remind landscape maintenance personnel not to blow leaves into the street gutters. Street sweepers cannot pick up large volumes of leaves.

If you have dead or dying trees, please come to Town Hall and get a tree removal permit as soon as possible. Also, as a reminder, sand bags and sand for residents are available now at Natalie Coffin Greene Park (please bring a shovel).

The Town's website (www.townofross.org) also provides very useful information on winter preparedness. Go to "[Flood Information](#)" or "[Community Preparedness](#)" to find helpful checklists and tips to prepare for emergencies. The "[Emergency Preparedness Guide](#)" identifies numerous resources and what to do in any kind of emergency. ■

Resident Appointed Chair of Marin Commission on Aging

We asked resident Teri Dowling to say a few words on her role at the Marin County Commission on Aging.



Teri Dowling

Dear Neighbors,
I've had the privilege of representing our Town of Ross on the Marin Commission on Aging for over four years. This year I serve as the Chair of the Commission.

The Marin County Commission on Aging is the federally mandated advisory council to the Aging and Adults Services Division of the Marin Department of Health and Human Services. It is comprised of 23 persons representing Marin County's towns, cities, and districts plus two representatives to the California Senior Legislature. As the Chair, I have the good fortune to facilitate the monthly Commission meetings and the Executive Committee as well as work closely with the staff of the Aging and Adult Services Division.

The Aging and Adult Services Division plays a critical role in planning, coordinating, administering and monitoring programs and services for older adults in Marin

Continued on Page 4

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the December Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the [December 10th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be available on this page after adoption by the Council at the January Council meeting.

Address: 1 East Road
Applicant: Charles & Stephanie Fontaine
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 205 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: Lagunitas Country Club
Council Action: Discussed & continued to a future meeting
Vote (for/against/abstain): (Kuhl recused)

Maintenance Worker II Position Available

The Town is seeking a full-time Maintenance Worker to work in the Public Works Department. This position replaces Buzz Doughty who retired in January 2015. The deadline to apply is December 15, 2015. Further information on this position can be found on the Town's website at: <http://www.townofross.org/jobs>.

New Committee Appointments

The Council appointed Paul Sagues as Ross' representative to serve on the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito Vector Control District Board of Trustees.

The Council also appointed resident Zachary MacReynolds to serve on the Financial Investment Advisory Committee (FIAC). Mr. MacReynolds will replace Michael Battey who no longer resides in Ross. Other current FIAC committee members include Mason Flemming and James Martling.

PUBLIC SAFETY



The Holiday Season is here and with it comes an increase in thefts throughout the area. Please be careful and extra vigilant.

Here are a list of crimes that have been reported to the Ross Police Department recently:

11/10: Two cars were broken into at the Marin Art & Garden Center (MAGC) parking lot during the day. Items of value were visible and were taken.



11/13: Auto Body Scam, theft of cash and jewelry. A Ross resident was approached by a man in a parking lot in San Rafael and offered to do body repair on the victim's car. The victim agreed and suspect followed her to her home to do the supposed work. While at her house, he asked to use the bathroom and took cash and jewelry. The suspect returned the next day to complete the work and get payment and was arrested by Ross Police.

11/23: Burglary on Baywood Avenue during the day. Suspect broke a window to gain entry and took jewelry.

11/29: Auto burglary from Branson School. Suspect took purse containing credit cards, then used the cards in San Rafael. Ross Police obtained photos of suspect from stores and has circulated the photos to police agencies in the Bay Area.





Marin Commission on Aging

(continued from Page 2)

County. These programs and services include nutritional meals, care giver support, elder abuse prevention and other programs that sustain the independence of older adults in Marin.

Some interesting facts about older adults in Marin. Today one in four Marin residents are over age 60. By 2030, that number is estimated to rise to one in three. For the County as a whole, life expectancy for both men and women is in the top 5% of all counties in the United States. Ross residents have the highest life expectancy in the county (an average of 88 years). However, within Marin, there is a 17 year difference in life expectancy between the most and least healthy neighborhoods.

Last year, we launched an enhanced Information and Assistance Line (415-457-INFO), with increased staffing to help older adults and caregivers navigate community resources. Check out the new website: www.livelonglivewellmarin.org, where you can learn more about Aging and Adult Services and the Commission on Aging.

Please feel free to contact me at mtdowling55@gmail.com, if you have any questions about our services. ■ ~Teri Dowling

Reminder of Town Hall Holiday Closure

Town Hall offices of Administration, Building, Public Works, & Planning will be closed December 23rd through January 1, 2016. If you have business needs with these departments, please address them before or after the closure. Police and Fire will remain open 24/7. During the holiday closure, if you need an Encroachment Permit, please email public-works@townofross.org, and someone will respond to you. To schedule a Building Inspection, please leave a voicemail message on the Building Inspector's phone line (415-453-1453 ext. 170), and he will return your call. Happy holidays to everyone!

RECREATION NEWS



The Ross Recreation youth basketball program has begun practice sessions at Bacich and Ross Schools. Games will be held on Saturdays beginning in January. The program will run through March 5.

Online registration for our winter program will begin in the middle of December.

Register at www.rossrecreation.org



Ross Recreation preschool enjoyed a presentation by WildCare of Marin. The Nature Van visited the preschool to give a presentation on native California wildlife. This interactive program encourages children and adults to understand and appreciate wildlife, by sharing knowledge and instructions on how to live peacefully with the animals among us and by advocating for better protection of wildlife and our remaining open spaces.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2015

Dec 6	4:30	pm	Winter Holiday Tree Lighting, Ross Common
Dec 10	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 23-Dec 31	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for the holidays

JANUARY 2016

Jan 1	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for New Year's Day
Jan 12	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 14	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 18	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 26	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

FEBRUARY 2016

Feb 11	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Feb 12	9:00	am	Special Council Meeting Annual Strategic Workshop, MAGC
Feb 15	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Presidents Day
Feb 15-Mar 11	--	--	Filing period for Candidates for Town Council
Feb 23	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

CONTACT US

Administration	415.453.1453 x105	Public Works	415.453.1453 x106
Building	415.453.1453 x106	Recreation	415.453.6020
Planning	415.453.1453 x121, 122	Ross Valley Fire	415.258.4686
Police	415.453.1453, Option 2	Town Manager	415.453.1453 x107

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



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 llopez@townofross.org.