

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Katie Hoertkorn

The Town Dinner is a reminder of our strong community spirit and traditions. And last Friday's Town Dinner at MAGC was a resounding success - over 500 people attended! Many thanks to Mike Armstrong, Ross Recreation Manager, and his team, Council member Elizabeth Brekhus, MAGC and all the volunteers who helped to make the dinner such a memorable and remarkable event. Mark your calendar now for the last week in September for next year's Town Dinner. Congratulations to Ross resident Teri Dowling for being named as the new chair for the Marin Commission on Aging. Teri has represented Ross for the last 4 years on the Commission and is spearheading a survey of adults 60+ to complete a needs based assessment. You can participate at the

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Town Dinner - Oh What a Night!

The annual Town Dinner drew 500+ members of the Ross community to dine outside under the stars with their neighbors. This festive event, now in its 10th year, has become a Town tradition and continues to draw large crowds.



An event of this size does not happen without the help of many people who we would like to acknowledge. First, kudos to the Recreation Department staff for taking on this event: Mike Armstrong, Audrey Hildebrand, Sandrick Jackson, Stephanie Levinson, Monica Siegenthaler, Sue Talmage and Robin Zellner. They did an excellent job overseeing all the details and we appreciate all their hard work! Many thanks to the Ross Town Council, Town Manager Joe Chinn, and the Ross Police Department (Chief Erik Masterson and Sergeant Gianfranco Campa), for helping out where needed. Thank you to the Ross School PTA (Tallie Fishburne, Erica Hunt, Jill Baker, Temple Schauble), and Glenn Greenberg, Recreation Advisory Committee.



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To our donors who contributed: (Ross Property Owners Association and Ross Café), we thank you for your generosity. And finally, we want to thank the Marin Art & Garden Center (MAGC), who again generously donated their venue for the event.

It was a great success and we look forward to doing it again next year! ■



following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/agingsurvey2016>.

The Fee Study for the Building and Planning Department, authorized by the Council in March, is on track for completion by the end of this year. This study, led by our Town Manager, Joe Chinn, is very important. The study will determine what fees need adjustment, ensuring fairness and accuracy for both applicants and residents, who have had to subsidize the building and planning process.



Ross's reputation is a charming community to raise a family, replete with lovely, well kept homes, an excellent school, a strong sense of true community, and a high walkability factor are among its many attributes. However, the Town receives complaints about a wide variety of quality of life issues: noise from leaf blowers or heavy construction on weekends, overgrown vegetation impeding sidewalk access, sidewalks needing repair, people not picking up after the dogs, etc. Please do your part to help keep this community we share truly charming and enjoyable to all.

Once again, I will be in front of the Post office on November 11th from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. to receive any community input prior to our next Council meeting. ■

Flood Update and Preparations

In an ongoing effort to keep citizens informed, we will continue to provide flood information we think is informative and useful to residents. This week, the Town cleared obstructions in the Corte Madera Creek on the segment of the creek owned by the Town. The Town is sending out notifications to property owners for general and specific drainage/creek maintenance actions, including vegetation and debris removal as appropriate. Please help by checking in and around your property for possible drainage/creek obstructions and take the appropriate actions. The Town website provides useful information on winter preparedness.



This month, the Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District has provided the following storm preparedness information.

Winter Weather Outlook

The National Weather Service's [Climate Prediction Center](#) anticipates that there will be a strong El Niño this upcoming winter and their latest precipitation outlook for December through March indicates that Marin is likely to receive higher than average amounts of precipitation. Additionally, due in part to warmer than average ocean waters, tides could be significantly higher than predicted.

Maintenance Overview

Regardless of predictions, the Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District prepares for every year as though it is an "El Niño year." Although two major flooding years in Marin's history occurred during years with El Niño episodes (1997/98 and 1982/83), it is not unusual to experience major flooding in the absence of El Niño, such as in 2005/06. Flooding can even occur during a drought year such as last year, when the County suffered some of its worst flooding damage since 2006.

Precipitation and Stream Gauge Maintenance

The District owns several precipitation and stream gauges throughout the County which help inform us of water levels in creeks and heavy rainfall in real-time. The nearest rain gauge is in Kentfield and there is a stream gauge on Corte Madera Creek at Ross Town Hall. For more information on the gauges visit: <https://marin.onerain.com/home.php>.

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PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the October Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the [October 8th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be available on this page after adoption by the Council at the November Council meeting.

Address: 70 Ivy Drive
Applicant: James & Brett Collins
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 128 Winding Way
Applicant: Norman & Mette Hardie
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-2-0 (Hoertkorn/ Small opposed)

Address: 15 Brookwood Lane
Applicant: Matthew & Niki Webster
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Kuhl recused)

Address: 155 Laurel Grove Avenue
Applicant: Javier Soltero & Emily Morris
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-1-0 (Small opposed)

Address: 9 Woodside Way
Applicant: Amalfi Woodside LLC
Council Action: Continued
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Hoertkorn recused)

Planning News

New Contractor

In case you noticed a new face in the Planning Department, the Town has hired Cathy Munneke as a new planning contractor. Cathy will serve as the primary town planner until the recruitment for the Planning Manager is filled. Cathy has 34 years of experience as a Land Use Planner in the public sector, working for cities in the East Bay. Most recently she managed the current Planning Division for the City of Concord, and prior to that she was the City Planner for the City of Martinez, working on both current and advance planning projects. Cathy's experience includes working closely with Design Review Boards, project management and CEQA experience, and a she was responsible for the complete update of Concord's 1956 Zoning Ordinance. Cathy's hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 7:00 am - 3:00 pm, and contact information is cmunneke@townofross.org, (415) 453-1453 ext. 121.



Cathy Munneke
 Planning Contractor

Planner Recruitment Underway

The Town has begun the recruitment process to hire a permanent Planner. The closing date to apply is October 12th. The Town will begin interviewing candidates in the coming weeks. The job announcement can be found on the Town's [website](#).



HALLOWEEN EVENTS

- ➔ **October 30, 2:45 pm - 5:00 pm:**
 Annual Halloween Window Painting
 Downtown Ross
 All paint and materials will be supplied. Just bring your creativity. For more information, contact Bonnie Bibas at 239-287-1414, or Gaby at 415-256-1112.
- ➔ **October 31, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm:**



Flood

Preparations

(continued from Page 2)

Are you prepared in case of flooding? Here are some tips to get you started.

BEFORE THE FLOOD

Understand your risks:

- 1) Know if your home is located on a flood plain, flash flood, or landslide area.
- 2) Practice evacuation routes. Make sure your family knows the way to high ground.
- 3) Enlist the help of an out of area relative or friend to be an emergency contact number. Ensure your family members have this information.

Buy emergency supplies:

- 1) Stock up on at least 3-5 days of bottled water, nonperishable food items and toiletries.
- 2) Purchase tarps, batteries, flashlights, rope, plastic bags, blankets, rain gear, first aid kit, and a batter operated radio. Store them in watertight containers.

Ready your home:

- 1) Know how to turn off propane gas and other utilities.
- 2) Install backflow valves on toilets and sinks so that flood waters cannot enter via the pipes.
- 3) Install sump pumps with backup power.
- 4) If you are located on a flood plain, elevate water heaters, furnace and electrical panel to be above flood depth.
- 5) Check your insurance policy to make sure you have adequate protection. Take photos of your property and belongings to have as a reference.

Look after your family:

- 1) Let authorities know if there is anyone in your house with special needs (elderly, disabled, etc.).
- 2) Establish a safe meeting place in case your family becomes separated.

DURING A FLOOD WATCH/WARNING

- 1) Listen to the radio or TV to keep informed of changing conditions.
- 2) If you live in a flash flood area, do not wait for instructions to move, the flood can happen without warning. Go to high ground.
- 3) Secure loose items in your yard. Bring pets indoors.
- 4) Sanitize bathtubs and sinks with a bleach solution and fill with fresh water.
- 5) If directed to evacuate by authorities, do so immediately. Turn off utilities at the main switch, including propane.
- 6) Do not drive or walk through flooded roads. ■

RECREATION NEWS

The Ross Recreation Fall Soccer program began league play on September 28th at the Ross Commons Field. Over 300 players in grades K through 2 are participating on 38 teams. The soccer program runs through November 14th.



Jean Marc Schafer (above) oversees the soccer program that provides weekly instruction and practices, together with league play on Saturdays. Coach Schafer is in his 28th year with Ross Recreation!



Emphasis is on fun and good sportsmanship!

Registration is open for Ross Recreation [boys and girls basketball](#) for grades K through 4. Games and practices are held at Bacich and Ross School Gyms. Program begins November 30th and continues through March 4th. Come and join the fun.

Look for the Winter brochure in the beginning of December.

Register at www.rossrecreation.org.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2015

Oct 6	6:30	pm	Special Council Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 8	5:30	pm	Special Council Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 8	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 13	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 27	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 30	2:45-5	pm	Halloween Window Painting, Downtown Ross
Oct 31	5-9:00	pm	Halloween Night Shady Lane Closure

RECURRING EVENTS

Thursdays thru October Ross Farm Stand, 12:00-7:30 pm, Ross Common *(Ends October 29th)*

NOVEMBER 2015

Nov 10	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 11	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Veterans Day
Nov 12	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 17	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 26-27	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday

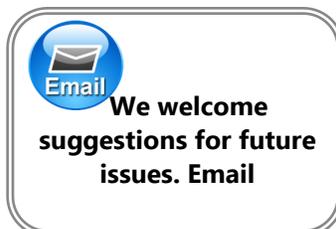
DECEMBER 2015

Dec 8	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 10	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 15	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 23-Jan 1	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for the holidays

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

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