

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Brekhus

I want to wish everyone in the community a very Happy New Year as we start 2015. Recently, the Town Council had the honor of hosting the past Ross Mayors and Council members at Town Hall. In all, about 25 people attended and it was a great opportunity for current and past Town Council members to meet and share stories.

Later this month, Ross will host the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers (MCCMC) meeting at the Marin Art and Garden Center. Speakers include the Marin Art & Garden Center President (and Ross resident), Diane Doodha, and Tom Peters, CEO of the Marin Community Foundation.

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Two Conservation Projects Underway

The Town has hired Senior Architectural Conservator Molly Lambert to restore two important landmarks.



The Town's treasured Bufano bear is getting a much needed facelift. The bear has been in decline for some time with cracks appearing throughout. The work being done will conserve and protect the integrity of the sculpture and hopefully prevent further damage.

Once the bear is completed, the Ross Veterans War Memorial monument on the Ross Common is slated to be worked on. In the same manner as the bear,

the work being done will secure the structure of the monument for years to come. The Memorial was erected in 1994 paid for by donations. The monument was commemorated in a ceremony held on November 11, 1994. The committee who oversaw its inception consisted of former Councilmembers Thomas Jones, James Lill, and Alan Preston Maginis. ■



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SFD Median Landscape Project Completed



The Sir Francis Drake Boulevard median landscape project at Bolinas Avenue has been completed. The median was filled with new drought tolerant plants, trees, mulch, and cobblestone on each end, making it a much improved entrance to Ross.



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Also, as referenced at previous Town Council meetings, the Transit Authority of Marin is planning to construct two new bus stops to replace the bus stop at the corner of Sir Francis Drake and Lagunitas and the bus stop in front of the Marin Art & Garden Center. This work is projected to occur by the end of March. The Town is also asking the Transportation Authority of Marin to consider replacing the bus stop on Sir Francis Drake and Bolinas Avenue.



In addition, the Town has looked at the cost of continuing the sidewalk, that ends on the corner of Laurel Grove and Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, further down Laurel Grove. The projected cost of that was considerable, and so the Town has applied to the Transportation Authority of Marin for a \$25,000 grant to possibly proceed with this work.



Finally, the Council will be discussing the expansion of the Ross Recreation preschool at St. John's Church, and the installation of new playground equipment on the existing site. At the same time, staff is working with a new parent group to obtain feedback from parents and to ensure that our Ross Recreation preschool programs are high quality. ■

Employee Appreciation Program



Two Town employees, Building and Public Works Secretary Simone Jamotte (20 years), and Police Officer Ken Nicholas (5 years) were recognized for their years of dedicated service to the Town of Ross. Both employees received a gift of appreciation.

Simone Jamotte began working for the Town in 1994 and has been a friendly face at the Building Department counter for 20 years. She handles all Building & Public Works Department inquiries, issues building permits, encroachment permits, and works closely with the Town's building and engineering contractors.

Ken Nicholas began his law enforcement career in 1989 at the Fairfield Police Department. He has worked for the Fairfax Police Department and worked briefly for the Town of Ross in 1999 before returning to the Fairfax Police Department. Ken rejoined the Ross Police Department in April 2009.

Thank you Simone and Ken for all you do! ■

Disposition of Town Owned Parcel

The Council discussed a report compiled by Economic & Planning Systems, Inc. (EPS) concerning potential future disposition of a Town owned parcel of land next to the Corporation Yard. This parcel of land up to the 2005 flood, had a single family dwelling located on the property. After the 2005 flood, the house had to be razed due to extensive flood damage.

EPS independently evaluated the financial and fiscal impacts of developing the parcel based on four residential scenarios including: single family, three-unit condominium, three-unit rental apartment and a three-unit affordable rental apartment. The report included four findings including "the single family residential scenario is estimated to provide the highest residual land value of the four evaluated scenarios". EPS estimated based on a 2,100' potential home construction, a \$900,000 land value.

The EPS consultant was asked a number of questions by the Council regarding comparable sales, estimated costs to create a separate lot (i.e., Assessor's Parcel Number, APN), construction costs to raise a single family home in a flood zone (the property is in a flood zone), costs to re-zone the property and other questions. These were not part of the EPS scope of work. The Council decided to continue discussion of this item and asked staff to come back to a future council meeting to provide more information on the process and necessary steps required to potentially consider disposition of this site. ■

PLANNING RESULTS



Elise Semonian

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the January Council meeting. For more information on each planning application, click [here](#). The minutes for this meeting will be available at www.townofross.org after adoption at the February 2015 Council meeting.

An audio file of this meeting will be posted on the [website](#) the day after the meeting.

Address: 14 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: St. John's Episcopal Church
Council Action: Approved Use Permit for 3 years; play structure continued
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 33 Bolinas Avenue
Applicant: Adam & Libby Tracy
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-1-1 (Robbins opposed, Small recused)

Address: 5 Crest Road
Applicant: Zach & Meghan Adelman
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 94 Shady Lane
Applicant: Louise McCallion
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-2 (Brekhus, Small recused)

Address: 147 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: Jurgen & Wendy Huck
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-1-0 (Small opposed)

ADR Openings



The terms of Advisory Design Review Group (ADR) members Chris Neumann (Chair 2014, member since 2013), Peter Nelson (member since 2011), Eric Soifer (member since 2013), Dan Winey (member since 2008) and Mark Kruttschnitt (alternate since 2011) will expire in February 2015. They will all apply for reappointment. However, the Town Council will consider any applications received for the two-year term positions.

Serving on the ADR is a unique opportunity to make a positive contribution to the design and appearance of our community and help neighbors come together on development issues. The ADR Group is composed of six volunteer Ross residents, four with professional design backgrounds in architecture, landscape design or other comparable fields. This group, which is advisory to staff and not a decision-making body, meets once a month at Ross Town Hall to provide homeowners with early community input on development plans. The meetings are currently scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. In addition to the meetings, members must review project plans and visit properties. We would like to thank the current ADR members, noted above, as well as members Jim Kemp (member since 2008) and Mark Fritts (member since 2008) that have volunteered their time in 2014 to make ADR a helpful forum for providing staff and applicants with early feedback during the review process.

If you are interested in serving on the ADR group, please submit an application form to the Town Council by February 1, 2015. The application form is available on the Town website by clicking [here](#) and at Town Hall. The Council will consider applications from current and prospective members at its February 2015 meeting. Please contact Elise Semonian, Senior Planner, with any questions you may have (415) 453-1453 ext. 121.

Marin Commission on Aging - File of Life

In order to help people better document their medications in case of a medical emergency, the Marin Commission on Aging is distributing File of Life packets. These free, red plastic, magnetized packets contain a person's personal medical information and are kept on the refrigerator for paramedics to use as a reference when responding to a medical emergency. A window sticker is visibly displayed outside the home so paramedics know to look for these packets. A free File of Life packet are available at the Ross Police/Fire Station.





Marin Sanitary Service 2015 Rates

The Town participates in a franchisor's group comprised of San Rafael, Larkspur, portions of Marin County and the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District. This group in turn retains an independent consulting firm to review the rate package submitted annually by Marin Sanitary Service (MSS). HF&H Consultants,



LLC has determined a 2.77% rate increase is appropriate for the Town to compensate MSS for its costs to provide refuse and related services.

Rate Adjustment Components 2015 Component Percentages	
Wages	(.83%)
Benefits (incl: workers comp)	(.65%)
Fuel and oil	.61%
Disposal	1.31%
Depreciation	1.58%
Other operating costs (*)	(.09%)
Subtotal operations	<u>1.93%</u>
Revenue shortfall net of franchise fees	.84%
Total rate adjustment	2.77%

* Includes other vehicle-related costs, profit, general and administrative costs (e.g., public education, customer service etc.)

The full staff report is available on the Town's website by clicking [here](#).

PUBLIC SAFETY

We recently had an incident in which a mentally ill woman assaulted someone in the downtown. Fortunately, the victim was not injured. People with mental illness can be difficult to deal with and can present a safety concern. Below, are some strategies that we (police officers) train our personnel to use:



- Be respectful to the person. When someone feels respected and heard, they are more likely to return respect and consider what you have to say.
- If they are experiencing events like hallucinations, be aware that the hallucinations or the delusions they experience are their reality. You will not be able to talk them out of their reality. They experience the hallucinations or delusional thoughts as real and are motivated by them. Communicate that you understand that they experience those events. Do not pretend that you experience them.
- Some people with paranoia may be frightened, so be aware that they may need more body space than you.
- Mental illness has nothing to do with the person's intelligence level. Do not lie to them, as it will usually break any rapport you might want to establish.
- Listen to the person and try to understand what he/she is communicating. Often, if you do not turn off your communicating skills, you will be able to understand. Find out what reality based needs you can meet.
- If needed, set limits with the person as you would others. For example, "I only have five minutes to talk to you" or "If you scream, I will not be able to talk to you."
- Call for help (police, another person) if you feel physically threatened or need help de-escalating the person.

Recreation News



The Winter/Spring brochure has been mailed and winter programs are underway. Spring registration will open in mid-January. Youth basketball leagues for 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade boys and girls have begun on Saturdays at Ross School gym. Kindergarten and 1st grade basketball leagues will begin on January 31st at Bacich school gym.

Ross Commons field is closed for annual turf renovation and maintenance in preparation for the upcoming spring season. The field will reopen in the first week of March. Please visit our website at www.RossRecreation.org for further details regarding our program offerings. Come join the fun! Mike, Sue, Eda and Maya

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2015

Jan 1-2	--	--	Town Hall offices holiday closure
Jan 12	6:00	pm	Bolinas Avenue Neighborhood Meeting, San Anselmo Town Hall
Jan 13*	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall <i>(*note date change)</i>
Jan 15	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 19	--	--	Town Hall offices closed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 22	8:00	am	Community Protection Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 27	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

FEBRUARY 2015

Feb 2	6:00	pm	Bolinas Avenue Neighborhood Meeting, Town Hall
Feb 10	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Feb 12	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Feb 16	--	--	Town Hall offices closed President's Day
Feb 24	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

MARCH 2015

Mar 10	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 12	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 24	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

APRIL 2015

Apr 9	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Apr 14	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Apr 28	6:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall



C O N T A C T U S	Mailing Address:	Street Address:
	P.O. Box 320	31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd
	Ross, CA 94957	Ross, CA 94957
	Administration	415.453.1453 x105
	Building	415.453.1453 x106
	Planning	415.453.1453 x121
	Police	415.453.1453, option 2
	Public Works	415.453.1453 x106
	Recreation	415.453.6020
	Ross Valley Fire	415.258.4686
Town Manager	415.453.1453 x107	
	www.townofross.org	

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