

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 | Issue 6 | June 2015

### Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Brekhus

The Council conducted a Community Input Session at the June Town Council meeting concerning the hiring of a new Town Manager. This follows a survey that was sent to residents, asking residents to comment on the qualifications they would like to see in the new Town Manager.

Additionally, the recruitment process for the Town Manager is moving ahead. We have received 47 applications with 16 candidates being selected for further consideration. Council will be reviewing a short list of candidates in a Closed Session next Monday, June 15th, to determine which candidates will be invited to initial interviews. We hope to have our new Town Manager onboard within the next few months.

*Continued on page 2*

### IN THIS ISSUE

2. Homeless Funding Proposal
2. 4th of July Celebration
3. Planning
3. Staff/Contractor Introductions
3. TAM Community Workshop
4. MMWD Drought Update
4. Recreation
5. Calendar

### Town of Ross & Ross School Joint Letter

Dear Town of Ross Residents and Ross School Families,

We love our trees! In a Town of Ross survey conducted in 2012, approximately 70% of the residents identified trees as their favorite feature in town. In 2013, the National Association of Arborists designated the Town of Ross as an Arbor City, USA.



*Oak Tree to be removed*

It is with regret that the Town of Ross and Ross School District inform you that the Valley Oak immediately in front of the steps of the school must be removed. After consulting with the District arborist and Town arborist, samples were collected and sent to UC Berkeley, Forest Pathology and Mycology Lab, which confirmed that the Valley Oak possesses two aggressive pathogens and is dying. It poses an imminent threat, and the arborists recommends the removal of the tree.

The Town of Ross owns the tree, but the responsibility for the maintenance of the tree belongs to the property owner in the right of way, Ross School District (see Town of Ross Ordinance, [Chapter 12.12 Weeds, Trees and Vegetation](#), Sections: 12.12.010, 12.12.015, 12.12.016, 12.12.017, 12.12.020, and 12.12.030). The safety of our residents, students, parents and faculty remain our highest priority. As a result, the tree will be removed in accordance with Town Ordinances this summer.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Brekhus  
Mayor

Chi Kim  
Superintendent



## Mayor's Corner - continued from page 1

The Town has certainly missed our former Town Planner, Elise Semonian. As might be expected, given how capable Elise was, we have had to hire three part-time, interim planners to perform her job. If you have experienced any kind of delay in Planning services, we apologize and appreciate your patience during this transition.

The Council heard from the Transportation Authority of Marin about the San Rafael-Richmond Bridge congestion problem and what is being done to address the problem. This item was placed on the agenda because we recognize that the traffic back up to the Bridge affects Ross residents as they try and exit onto Sir Francis Drake, toward Ross. It is unclear whether the Town can do anything to encourage a solution, but the issue is an important one that affects the quality of life in Marin County. Another regional issue, that effects all of us, as residents of the County, was also discussed last night. The Council heard about the problem of homelessness in Marin County and a proposal to the Town to join with other Marin cities and the County to fund temporary housing or shelter.



Our new Farm Stand vendor is in its third week of operation. The Farm Stand takes place each Thursday afternoon from noon to 7:30 pm on the Ross Common. Please come by and support your local farmers! ■

### Council Considers Proposal for Community Homeless Fund



The Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers (MCCMC) established an Elected Officials Homeless Subcommittee in 2014, with a representa-

tive from every city in Marin. The Subcommittee concluded its work in March 2015 with a report and plan to have each representative bring the report and recommendation to their respective city/town Councils. Mayor Pro Tempore Katie Hoertkorn is Ross' representative. The concept is for each town/city to contribute annually for three years, to a to-be-formed Community Homeless Fund at the Marin Community Foundation (MCF). The funds would be utilized for homelessness services. Ross' contribution for three years would total \$28,044 (\$9,348/year).

The Council voted unanimously to contribute \$9,348 in FY 2015-16 for homelessness services. The Council also agreed to send a letter to the Marin Community Foundation asking they focus more of their funds to addressing homeless issues. ■



### 2015 Ross Fourth of July Celebration

Don't miss the Town of Ross 2015 Fourth of July celebration! The parade starts at 11:00 am with everyone welcome to join in. Decorate your car, bike or yourself.



After working up an appetite in the parade, enjoy a picnic on the Ross Common from 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Fried chicken lunches will be provided by Robert Meyer on a pre-order basis, or enjoy an all American, grass fed hot dog sold on site by "Let's be Frank". You may pre-order your chicken lunch beginning June 15th on the Recreation Department website at [www.rossrecreation.org](http://www.rossrecreation.org), or in person at the Recreation Department office.



Volunteers are still needed to help with organizing the parade and assisting with set-up and take down. Please contact [rossrec@rossrecreation.org](mailto:rossrec@rossrecreation.org), if you are interested in volunteering or participating in the parade. ■

## PLANNING RESULTS



Ali Giudice  
Contract Planner

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the May Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the [June 11th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be available on this page after adoption by the Council at the July Council meeting.

**Address: 648 Goodhill Road**  
**Applicant: Ken & Kerry Keefe**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 63 Laurel Grove Avenue**  
**Applicant: Brad Oldenbrook**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 1 Crest Road**  
**Applicant: Megan & Zach Adelman**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**



## TAM Community Workshop

Marin County needs your help in forming a strategic path forward for transportation, including prioritizing transportation investments for local, regional, state and federal funding over the next three decades. The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) wants your input as it is preparing to both submit projects and programs for inclusion in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and complete a Strategic Vision Plan. Please join them at a Community Workshop to let them know what types of transportation projects are most important to you.

**Saturday, June 20th, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
**San Rafael High School Cafeteria**  
**185 Mission Avenue, San Rafael**  
**Lunch will be provided!**

For more info visit [www.tam.ca.gov](http://www.tam.ca.gov).

## Contractor/Staff Introductions



### Administration Department



Donna Redstone  
Office Assistant

The Town of Ross welcomes Donna Redstone as our new part-time Office Assistant. Donna has over 15 years of experience in administrative support. She is familiar with the Town of Ross as she spent the previous 4 years working for the Oceanic Society whose offices are located at the Marin Art & Garden Center. She will be assisting in various departments as needed. Her hours are Mon-Fri, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, and contact info is [dredstone@townofross.org](mailto:dredstone@townofross.org), 453-1453 ext. 119.

### Building Department

Thomas (Tommy) Thompson is a Senior Building Inspector and Plans Examiner with Coastland Civil Engineering and has over 37 years of experience in the construction industry. He is an ICC Certified Inspector and Plans Examiner with experience in municipal Public Works, Health Care, Commercial, Residential and Multi-Family Residential projects. Mr. Thompson has worked for the building departments in the cities of Richmond, Santa Rosa and Oakland and has provided plan check, building inspection and code enforcement services for residential and commercial properties. He has been doing plan review and building inspections for Ross since 2013. His hours are Tues-Thu, 8:00-11:00 am, and contact info is 453-1453 ext. 170. ■



Tommy Thompson  
Contract Bldg Inspector

## MAGC SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The Marin Art & Garden Center free summer concert series begins Thursday, June 25th, and will continue every Thursday through August 13, 2015. Enjoy all types of music from Blues to Jazz, to Folk, and even a Johnny Cash tribute band. Box dinners are available for purchase from MAGC's exclusive caterers. There will also be face painting for the kids and botanical cocktails at the Edible Garden. Visit MAGC's website at [www.magc.org](http://www.magc.org) for a complete schedule of bands and caterers.

## MMWD Drought Update

For this year, the State Water Resources Control Board has asked Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) and its customers to reduce water use by 20% as a community for the period June 2015 through February 2016 when compared to 2013 use. MMWD is not assigning individual water use targets to customers. Instead, they are asking all customers to continue their successful conservation efforts. Specific prohibited uses of water and drought updates are available on their website.

Collectively, MMWD customers have already achieved an average monthly savings of 13.5% since January 2014. An additional 6.5% is needed to reach their state goal. Using the month of May 2015 as an indicator, MMWD is on track to achieve their 20% target because last month customers collectively reduced water use by more than 20%.

You can find monthly and cumulative data on their website at <http://www.marinwater.org/318/Drought-Information>, to track their progress beginning with the June consumption data, which will be posted in early July.

Thank you for conserving.

## Recreation News

### Ross Recreation Summer Camps

Main Sessions run 6 weeks from 6/15-7/24: **Adventure, Top Gun, Kinder and Safari Camps!**

Camps begin Monday, June 15th at Ross School! Please call or email your friends and classmates and encourage them to join you. It's always more fun with more old and new friends! Some camps' weeks are **SOLD OUT**. Don't miss out, **Register NOW!**



Don't forget about our other great camps:

**NEW: MARIN EXPLORERS!**

SPORTY GIRLS

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

KIDS BOOK CLUB

LACROSSE CAMP

PERFORMANCE CAMP: 101 Dalmatian Kids

KIDS CHOICE CAMP/CARPENTRY

KIDS ON CAMERA CAMP: Comedy, TV Scripts & Improvisation

REGISTER NOW at: **[www.RossRecreation.org](http://www.RossRecreation.org)**

Click on the **CAMPS** button to see all the offerings, or sort by the week you are interested in.

# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JUNE 2015

June 9	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
June 11	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
June 15	10:15	am	Special Council Meeting Closed Session, Town Hall
June 19-20	TBD	am	Special Council Meeting Closed Session, Town Hall
June 23	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

## JULY 2015

July 3	--	--	Town Hall offices closed Independence Day Holiday
July 4	11:00	am	Annual 4th of July Parade & Celebration, Ross Common
July 9	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
July 14	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
July 28	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

## AUGUST 2015

August 25	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
-----------	------	----	---

## SEPTEMBER 2015

Sept 1	--	--	Town Hall offices closed Labor Day
Sept 10	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Sept 22	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Sept 25	5:00	pm	Annual Town Dinner, Marin Art & Garden Center

## RECURRING EVENTS

Thursdays thru October      Ross Farm Stand, 12:00-7:30 pm, Ross Common  
 Thursdays June 25-August 13 Free Summer Concert Series, 5:00-7:00pm, Marin Art & Garden Center



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

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](mailto:llopez@townofross.org).