

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Katie Hoertkorn

Summer is over and Ross school is back in session. Welcome to the new Superintendent, Dr. Michael McDowell, as well as the new teachers, and new students and kindergardners. Please be mindful of school traffic in the morning and afternoons.

One of the key projects the Town has identified for this fiscal year is a comprehensive Building and Planning Fee Study. The project was approved last March at the council meeting, but not begun because we had an interim Town Manager. We launched the study in early August, and it is expected to be completed before the end of the calendar year. Up until three years ago, Building and Planning fees were substantially subsidized by property taxes. Not only

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Flood and Winter Preparedness



The Town of Ross is preparing for the anticipated "El Nino" weather pattern during the upcoming rainy season. The Town, the residents, property owners, and the Marin County Flood Control all play an important role in preparing for the upcoming rainy season.

Drainage infrastructure maintenance is routinely scheduled by the Town for the fall of each year, and there are Capital Improvement Projects for drainage repairs that will be occurring in the next few months for culverts on Fernhill Avenue, Brookwood Lane, Allen Avenue, and Madrona Avenue.

Property owners are responsible for 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 debris that can obstruct the natural flow of water.

The Public Works Department will be sending out notifications to property owners for general and specific drainage/creek maintenance actions, including vegetation and debris removal as appropriate. Now is the time to go out and check your property for possible tree hazards. If you have dead or dying trees, please come to Town Hall and get a tree removal permit as soon as possible.

Sand bags and sand for residents will be available at Natalie Coffin Greene Park and possibly another designated location in the Town of Ross. Flood gates in the commercial area on Ross Common should be checked now by the owners and/or occupants for maintenance and proper operating procedures. The Town of Ross is preparing an action plan for employees that will include additional public notifications and coordination. Information will be distributed to residents via letters, email, and postings around town, so stay tuned. ■



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did building project fees not cover the actual costs, it meant that the Town was pulling from reserves to balance the budget, while also cutting services. The fees were increased several years ago to reduce the subsidy. The detailed fee study of all the Town's fees is very important because it will indicate which fees might need to be adjusted – both lower and higher – based on the current cost of service provision. We will keep you updated as this project progresses.

Some important Town dates to note, consider, and hopefully attend:

- Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9 AM to 1 PM at Ross School gym, there will be a First Aid for Disaster Response class sponsored by the Disaster Preparedness Committee and RPOA. Parents whose kids ride bikes or skate boards, sports coaches, babysitters, teachers and anyone concerned with safety should attend. To sign up, email Patti Shimek at p.shimek@comcast.net. There is no charge to attend (it's FREE!) and space is still available.
- The annual meeting and luncheon for the Moya Library & Ross Historical Society will be Friday, September 18th, 11:00 AM, at the Marin Art and Garden Center, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Marin Art & Garden Center. Tickets for the luncheon are \$45 and for the presentation only, \$10.
- The Town Dinner is Friday, September 25th, also at MAGC. Please RSVP if you have not done so (see details of event on page 4). At the upcoming Town Dinner, Ross School will be collecting gently used books which will be donated to underprivileged communities. There will be receptacles near the entrance. Please consider donating your books to this good cause. Enjoy the dinner with your fellow Ross residents!

Finally, before the next Council meeting, I will be in front of the Post Office between 9:30 and 11 a.m. on October 7th. Please stop by with any concerns or thoughts you may wish to share. ■

Streamlined Process for Residential Rooftop Solar System Permits



Assembly Bill 2188 (AB2188) amended the California Solar Rights Act to encourage deployment of solar energy

systems by reducing the costs and delays associated with local permitting processes. Every city and county must adopt an ordinance that creates an expedited, streamlined permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems, on or before September 30, 2015. Cities and counties are also required to adopt a checklist of all requirements than an applicant must comply with for a small residential rooftop solar energy system to be eligible for expedited review. The streamlined permitting process and checklists must substantially conform to the most current version of the [California Solar Permitting Guidebook](#). The ordinance introduced at the September Council meeting adopts by reference, the California Solar Permitting Guidebook, with no changes at this time, but the ordinance allows the Building Official to update the checklists over time as needed. To view the full staff report on the Town's website, click [here](#). ■

Older Adults Needs Assessment Survey



The Marin County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is currently conducting a needs assessment of older adults to guide the County in determining the funding

priorities for the next four years. This assessment asks older adults about their needs, concerns and priorities. The Plan determines the goals and direction of the AAA for the next four years. The results of the survey will help define funding allocations for critical services such as, but not limited to, case management, senior center activities and nutrition programs such as congregate meals and home delivered meals. If you are over 60 please consider taking this assessment. If you know of someone who is 60 and older and living in the county, please pass this information on to them so their voice can be heard. All responses are anonymous. The needs assessment is available online at the following link: www.marinhhs.org/agingsurvey. Paper copies of the assessment are also available at Ross Town Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Teri Dowling, Chair, Marin Commission on Aging, representing the Town of Ross (mtdowling55@gmail.com). ■

PLANNING RESULTS



Leann Taagepera
Contract Planner



Ali Giudice
Contract Planner

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

Address: 39 Fernhill Avenue
Applicant: The Branson School
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

MMWD Rebates Available



The Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) new toilet and clothes washer rebate program started July 1, 2015. Toilets and clothes washers purchased on or after July 1, 2015, are eligible for a rebate. Click on the following links for more information:

[Get up to \\$150 each for EPA WaterSense labeled Toilets \(Limit: two per household\)](#)

[Get up to \\$150 for an Energy Star Most Efficient Clothes Washer](#)

Five More Ways to Save: For a limited time, MMWD is offering residential customers rebates up to \$50 each for the following products:

- Pool covers
- Hot water recirculating systems
- Organic mulch
- Laundry-to-landscape system components
- Rain barrels

Purchase one or more for a total of up to \$250 for all five.

[See complete details and download form](#)

PUBLIC SAFETY



Back to School Safety

Now that school is back in session, it is a good time to remind parents and children of the following.

If kids are walking:

- Map out a safe route to school and walk it with your child for a few days so they become familiar with the way.
- Make sure your child crosses at intersections where there is a crossing guard.
- Have children wear bright clothing that can be seen by drivers.

Riding or driving in the car:

- All children should wear a seat belt or use an age-appropriate car seat or booster seat.
- If you have a teen driving to school, make sure they drive safely by using a seat belt at all times, limit the number of passengers, and remind them about use of cell phones while driving.

On a bicycle:

- Make sure your child always wears a helmet.
- Teach them to ride in the same direction as traffic, on the right side of the road.
- Show your child the appropriate hand signals for turning.
- Explain the “rules of the road” - obey stop signs and traffic lights.

Tips for driving in a school zone (especially during drop-off and dismissal times)

- Slow down. The simplest thing any driver can do when there are new driving hazards is slow down.
- Allow More Time. As a new school year begins allow yourself more time to get where you are going until you can figure out the effects of increased traffic. Stay Alert! Make a mental note of any new bus stops or students walking to and from school. This way you won't be surprised and will be prepared if you need to stop.
- Learn the Rules. Schools usually have places for parents to drop off and pick up children. If you are driving your child to school learn where these areas are and follow the procedures. If you need to go into the school ask where you can park your vehicle so traffic can continue to move smoothly. Never block pick and drop off areas.
- Carpool. If at all possible carpool with other parents to pick up and drop off children. This reduces congestion and can even save you money. ■





ROSS TOWN DINNER SEPTEMBER 25th

Ross' annual Town Dinner is almost upon us. Have you reserved your seats yet? The deadline to register for the event is Friday, September 18th. Join your neighbors and dine under the stars for this beloved Town event:

Friday, September 25th, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Marin Art & Garden Center (MAGC)
Cost per person (adults and children) is \$10 each.

Bring your own picnic and beverage. We provide tables, linens, chairs, dessert, and music entertainment.

Ross parent and Town Council Member Elizabeth Brekhus is overseeing the community dessert table. This year we are doing cookies (to reduce the clean-up created last year for the next day's event at MAGC). Please consider baking a plate of nut-free cookies to share with your neighbors, and kindly email Elizabeth at elizabethb@brekhus.com, if you are able to bring nut-free cookies to share.

This year, the Recreation Department will oversee the event. You may register and pay by credit card at rossrecreation.org. Or you may register by mail by sending a check payable to "Town of Ross" to Recreation Department – Town Dinner, P.O. Box 117, Ross, CA 94957. Be sure to include the names of the attendees you are registering.

The space is generously being provided for FREE by the Marin Art & Garden Center. Net proceeds will be donated to MAGC.

We look forward to seeing you there!

RECREATION NEWS

The Ross Recreation Fall program is offering adult programs in the arts and sports. A variety of programs for middle school age students are also offered. Come on out and enjoy an activity during our fall session!

Adult Programs include:

- Sewing
- Holiday wreath making
- Drop-in basketball
- Clay sculpting
- Beginning golf
- Early intermediate, intermediate and advanced tennis instruction

Middle school age programs include:

- Babysitting safety
- Beginning and advanced drumming
- Academic chess
- Introduction to good manners
- Ballroom dancing

Register at www.rossrecreation.org



ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2015

Sept 1	--	--	Town Hall offices closed Labor Day
Sept 8	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Sept 10	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Sept 12	9:00	am	First Aid Disaster Response Class, Ross School Gym
Sept 22	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Sept 25	5:00	pm	Town Dinner, Marin Art & Garden Center

OCTOBER 2015

Oct 6	6:30	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

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

RECURRING EVENTS

Thursdays thru October Ross Farm Stand, 12:00-7:30 pm, Ross Common

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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