



Mayor's Corner - continued from page 1

held on the night of a reported big storm. Although it is great news that we are getting more rainfall, we must be particularly vigilant in being prepared for potential rain storm events. We want to remind residents that if you need sandbags, sand and bags are available just outside the entrance to Natalie Coffin Park. You must bring a shovel to fill your bags. And, there is a great deal of information online on the Town website about "Getting Ready" for major winter storm events. We encourage all residents to prepare yourself and your household.



The Council tonight will consider the landscape plans for the Sir Francis Drake side of town hall and the public safety building. Once the landscaping is completed it will go a long ways toward improving the appearance of the facilities along this major arterial street. Another issue the Council will decide is how staff should dispose of the old green and white street signs and where any proceeds should go.

Again we wish you and your family a happy holiday season..... ■

Paramedic Services Tax Passes



The Council adopted a Resolution certifying the official results of Measure M, the Paramedic Services Tax, that passed in the November 4, 2014 election with the two-thirds majority vote required.

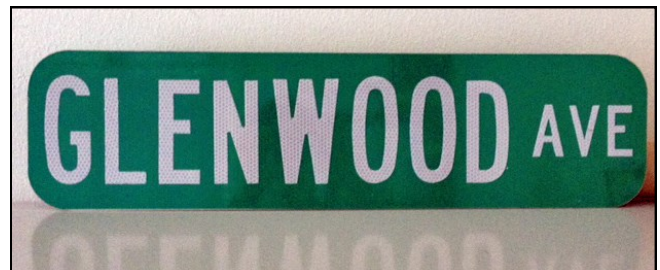
The total number of ballots cast in the election for Measure M was 1,053, which comprised 65.16% of the 1,616 registered voters in Ross.

The voter count is as follows:

	<u>Yes Votes</u>	<u>No Votes</u>
Paramedic Services Tax:	796 (75.59%)	257 (24.41%)

The tax is voted on every four years and will cover the period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2019. ■

Ross Street Signs For Sale



The Town recently replaced all of its street signs with brown reflective high intensity street signs. The disposal of the old green and white street signs was discussed at the December Council meeting.

The Council approved making the street signs available to interested residents on a first-come first serve basis. The price to purchase a sign is \$25.00 each. There is no limit to how many signs you can purchase. Residents have until March 1st of next year to purchase signs. After March 1st, any remaining signs will be donated to the Ross School PTA for use in their fundraising efforts.

If you are interested in purchasing a sign, please send an email to Linda Lopez at llopez@townofross.org. She will let you know when the sign(s) are available to pick up.

PLANNING RESULTS



Elise Semonian

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the December 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 January 2015 Council meeting.

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

Address: 20A Sir Francis Drake Blvd
Applicant: Jack & Beverley Domet
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 33 Bolinas Avenue
Applicant: Adam & Libby Tracy
Council Action: Continued to January 13, 2015 meeting

Address: 88 Laurel Grove Avenue
Applicant: Courtney & Nicole Haslett
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Recreation News

Watch for the Winter/Spring Brochure to be mailed soon. Please keep it for your reference through the spring. All winter programs are currently available for registration online. Most winter programs will begin on January 20 and will run for nine weeks. Youth basketball league games start on January 10 and run through March 7.

Spring program registration will be available in mid January. New offerings for the spring include youth and adult golf lessons, youth bicycle maintenance and safety classes, and youth language classes in Spanish and Mandarin.

We are grateful for all of our loyal families and staff. Have a wonderful holiday season.

Mike, Sue, Eda and Maya
Ross Recreation Department

MMWD Water Update



Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) has reported that district customers are continuing to conserve water and have reduced their use significantly in the last two months. For October 2014, MMWD customers reduced their consumption by 18.5% compared with October 2013, surpassing the state average. MMWD customers cut back even further in November 2014, achieving a savings of 21.5% compared to the previous November.



The reduced water use has helped keep MMWD reservoir levels higher than in other parts of the state for the past several months, and the recent storms have also made a difference. After a record-dry 2013,

rainfall totals for the current rainfall year are now above average. Average rainfall for the year to date (July 1-December 4, 2014) is 10.48 inches; this year to date MMWD has received 12.85 inches, with nearly 7 inches of that falling just since November 28th. Last year to date the district had received a mere 2.63 inches.

The heavy rains translate into additional runoff in the district's seven Marin reservoirs, bringing water storage totals to above average as well. Current storage is 52,489 acre-feet,^[1] or 66% of capacity. Average for this date is 51,937 acre-feet, or 65% of capacity.

While this is all good news for MMWD customers, it is not a license to waste water. California's drought-prone climate means the efficient use of water is necessary at all times in order to preserve limited supplies.

MMWD is Marin County's largest provider of drinking water, serving a population of 186,000 in a 147-square-mile area of south and central Marin County. The district owns and manages 21,635 acres of watershed land on Mt. Tamalpais and in west Marin. The primary source of water supply is rainfall captured in seven reservoirs, providing 75% of the water consumed each year.

^[1] One acre-foot is 325,851 acre-feet.



Draft Housing Element Available for Review

State law requires each city and county to adopt a general plan. Housing elements have been mandatory portions of general plans since 1969. The Housing Element 2015-2023 plans for Town residential needs and describes the efforts the Town will make to contribute to the regional housing needs for housing for all economic levels. Unlike the other mandatory general plan elements, the housing element is required to be updated approximately every five or eight years and is subject to detailed statutory requirements and mandatory review by the State Department of Housing and Community Development.



The Council will consider the draft housing element at the January 13, 2015 Council meeting. The element has been updated with current data and continues the programs and policies of the 2009-2014 housing element. The Town approved thirteen new units during the 2009-2014 housing element cycle. One new house and nine new second units were built during that planning period. The Town may count units built and approved since January 1 towards the new housing element period. One second unit was completed, two are under construction and two were approved this year. The Town's remaining share of the regional housing need, as determined by the Association of Bay Area Governments, is thirteen units by 2023. This includes four market rate units and nine units available to moderate to very low income households. Input on the housing element is welcome by emailing esemonian@townofross.org. The draft housing element will be on the website in January.

REMINDER - Town Hall Holiday Closure

Town Hall offices (Admin, Building, Public Works, & Planning) will be closed December 22nd through January 2, 2015. If you have business needs with these departments, please address them before or after the closure. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

PUBLIC SAFETY

Vacation Checks Reminder:

Criminals are opportunists and seek out unsecured homes, or homes where the residents are away. If you plan to go out of town, please take precautions to safeguard your home.



The Ross Police Department offers its residents the service of "Vacation House Checks". If you plan on going out of town and would like the Police Department to check on your home while you are away, please complete the [Vacation House Check form](#).

The form can be found on the Town website, listed on the Police Department section. Please take advantage of our service. ■

Repairing of Town Hall Windows



The windows at Town Hall are scheduled to be worked on early next year. The windows have been in disrepair for many years. The work will include replacing windows that contain dry rot and mold and repairing others that do not open and close properly and cause leakage during rainstorms. No changes to the design will be made; the repaired windows will look exactly the same as they are now.

The Wooden Window Company located in Oakland, was selected for the project, as they specialize in the repair and replacement of wooden windows. The project is funded by the FY15 Facilities & Equipment fund.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2014

Dec 5	4:30	pm	Ross Holiday Tree Lighting, Ross Common
Dec 8	3:00	pm	Finance Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 9	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 11	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 16	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 22	8:00	am	General Government Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 22-Dec 30	--	--	Town Hall offices holiday closure (Admin, Building, Public Works, Planning)

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 21	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



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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