

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Rupert Russell

I would like to thank Liz Welsh for a fantastic job in organizing superbly enjoyable and uplifting July 4th festivities for the Town. Liz worked with complete dedication, enthusiasm and vigor. She pulled off a day I will remember for a long time (riding in the Parade in the back of Stephanie Robinson's 1958 convertible Mercedes was a treat!). Liz successfully brought together all parts of the community in a heartwarming celebration. Ross has a number of crown jewels, but the greatest is the wonderful spirit of volunteerism and willingness to pitch in and help from our residents and Town staff. Robert Maccario and Buzz Doughty, long-time members of our Staff, worked tirelessly to support Liz before, during and after the 4th of July

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HIGHLIGHTS

2. Public Safety
3. Planning
3. Basements/Attics Amnesty
3. Bolinas Ave Safe Pathways
4. Council Committee Appts
4. Town Dinner
5. Calendar

Mayor & Mayor Pro Tempore Appointed



P. Beach Kuhl



Elizabeth Brekhuis

The Council appointed Beach Kuhl as Mayor and Elizabeth Brekhuis as Mayor Pro Tempore. Mayor Kuhl on behalf of the Town and Council, presented outgoing Mayor Russell with a commemorative gavel plaque and thanked him for his year of service as Mayor.

New Encroachment Ordinance Adopted



The Council adopted a new Encroachment Permit Ordinance (EPO) regulating encroachments in the public right-of-way and on public property. The EPO will take effect in thirty days. The ordinance was extensively considered at several public meetings of the Council Public Works Committee. An Encroachment Permit is generally required to ensure work that occurs on public streets and sidewalks and on public property is performed according to current construction standards. An encroachment permit is needed anytime you wish to perform any work in the public right-of-way or on public property. This is the area outside your property that generally includes the sidewalk, curb and gutter, planting strip, driveway cut to your property and the street. An encroachment permit is not only the mechanism by which an applicant can obtain permission to do work in the right-of-way, but it also assures such work will

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event. We are fortunate to have Liz, Robert and Buzz and their efforts are warmly appreciated.

This year I have to draw attention to the deaths of those prominent in Ross life. I would like to say a few words about the loss of Officer Bob Besgrove. Officer Bob was a School Resource Officer all the children at the School, including mine, loved to listen to as he told his good-hearted larger than life stories. I have a strong personal connection with him because he was the cause of my family moving to Ross. In 1999 newly arrived from LA, my wife and I were driving around Ross and pulled over near the School to study our maps, when we looked up to find a large man in uniform knocking on our car window. It was Officer Bob who asked us if he could help and whether we needed any information about Ross. We immediately decided we wanted to live in a community with such kind and thoughtful service. I will always remember Officer Bob with great fondness and he will forever have a special place in the memory of many residents.



This is my last Mayor's Report. It has been an honor to serve this Town. I am lucky to have served with a great Town Manager in Rob Braulik, to have been supported by many hard-working members of Staff, to have benefited from committed volunteers such as Liz Welsh, and to be part of a dedicated, engaged and committed Council. It has been a special year for me leading our community. Thank you for the opportunity and I look forward to lending my support to our able new Mayor, Beach Kuhl. ■

PUBLIC SAFETY

There are several parking and signage issues which are being addressed in town this month. These are some of the proposed changes:



Chief Eric Masterson

1. Parking on Redwood Road will be restricted at specific times due to activities on the Common that cause parking congestion. Redwood Road from the curve at Eddie's to Brookwood will be restricted on weekends and Monday through Friday 3pm to 7pm. Residents and business owners will be exempted by permit. You may obtain a permit(s) through the Police Department.
2. Laurel Grove Avenue at the driveway access road to #49-#69 will be posted for "No Parking Commercial Vehicles." This is because the shoulder of that area has been used by construction companies to park trailers and construction vehicles while doing work further up the road.
3. Woodside Way will be posted at Madrona Ave with a sign "No Outlet" as neighbors have experienced trucks that come into the area and then have great difficulty turning around.

Vacation Checks

The Police Department offers vacation house checks while you are away from home. Officers will keep an eye out on your house while you are out of town. You can go to our website and obtain the request form, then fax it in to us.

Encroachment Ordinance

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be inspected to established construction standards and, upon acceptance, helps to protect applicants from potential liability that may otherwise come about by substandard or unauthorized work. The most common encroachment permits are "minor" permits (e.g., curb drains, driveway approaches, sidewalks). The fee for this permit is \$185.

The new EPO was written to provide clarity to applicants on what is necessary to do work in the public right-of-way or on public property and will assist the Town in protecting the public health, safety and welfare of the community. There is clear language on what an encroachment is; what encroachments are prohibited; security provisions for encroachments; insurance and indemnification provisions are included; and appeal provisions to the council and related items. ■

PLANNING



Elise Semonian

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the July Council meeting. For more information on each planning application, click [here](#). The minutes of this meeting will be available on the website at www.townofross.org after approval at the September 2013 Council meeting. There is no Council meeting scheduled in August 2013.

Address: 12 Upper Ames
Applicant: Nadine Berry
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): 3-2-0 (Brekhus and Russell opposed)

Address: 27 Upper Road
Applicant: Eric Greenberg
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Russell recused)

Address: 50 Willow Avenue
Applicant: Marcus Nordenstam
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Kuhl recused)

Address: 92 Shady Lane
Applicant: Bill & Jenny Reilly
Council Action: Approved, trellis and north stairs denied
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-2 (Russell & Brekhus recused)

Address: 128 Winding Way
Applicant: Norman & Mette Hardie
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Amnesty Period to Legalize Basements & Attics Finished Without Permits Ends in September

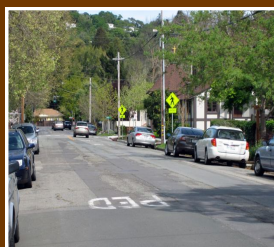


The amnesty program for applications to legalize basements and attics finished without permits is ending on September 12, 2013. The program permits property owners to legalize attic and basement construction work done without required planning approval or building permits without payment of after-the-fact permit penalties and inspection fees. Town planning fees are normally tripled for unpermitted work and the building permit inspection fee is at least 10% of the value of the project. During the amnesty program owners are only responsible for the normal fees.

In order to avoid Planning Department penalty fees, a complete application for an exception must be received prior to September 12, 2013. To avoid building permit fees, the building permit must be submitted prior to September 12, 2013.

More information on the requirements for finishing a basement or attic may be found under the Exceptions for Basements and Attics, [Chapter 18.46](#) of the Ross Municipal Code. Any questions, please contact Senior Planner Elise Semonian at esemonian@townofross.org. ■

Bolinas Avenue Safe Pathways Project



This project will commence construction July 15th. The contractor is Coastland which was awarded the contract after a competitive bidding process. This project includes construction of raised medians for traffic separation (combined with pedestrian safety refuge islands, curb extensions (to shorten crosswalks), curb ramps, traffic signage, stripes and pavement markings, replacement of traffic signal heads, etc. The Town of San Anselmo provided bid assistance to the Town of Ross and is under contract to provide project construction management and inspection services. This project is funded primarily by grant funds of \$250,000 provided by the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM).



July 4th Celebration (photos courtesy of Cynthia Wollam)

Thank You!



A very big thank you to the Ross Property Owners' Association for their generous donation of \$10,000 to help support the Town's new audio sound system in the Council Chambers. The new sound system will mark

the first time that Ross will

have amplification at the Council meetings as most cities have. It also marks the beginning of the upgrade to the Council Chambers which will include video streaming in the future. The audio sound system is scheduled to be installed within the next couple of months. ■

TOWN DINNER ANYONE?

Traditionally the Town has hosted a Town Dinner in September of each year. This event has been organized by a community person who has volunteered their time to organize and coordinate this event. In recent years the person organizing the event has



also raised the necessary funds to host the event. There is minimal Town staff and financial support for this event. The Town is asking if there is anyone in the community who might be interested in organizing this event which includes raising funds for the event. If so, please contact Linda Lopez, Town Clerk, at 453.1453 x105. ■

2013-14 Council Committees Appointed

The Council set their committee appointments for the new fiscal year with minor changes. Here is a summary of all the committee assignments.

Mayor Beach Kuhl:

Transit Authority of Marin (TAM)
Marin Telecommunications Agency (alternate)
Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)
League of California Cities

Elizabeth Brekhus:

Public Works, Chair
General Government
Ross Park & Recreation
Ross School
League of California Cities (alternate)

Katie Hoertkorn:

Community Protection
Finance, Chair
Marin Energy Authority (alternate)
Ross Valley Fire JPA
Marin Art & Garden Center

Rupert Russell:

Public Works
General Government, Chair
Joint Oversight Committee
Marin Telecommunications Agency
MCCMC
Ross Property Owners Association

Carla Small:

Community Protection, Chair
Finance
Joint Oversight Committee (alternate)
Transit Authority of Marin (alternate)
MCCMC Legislative (alternate)
Marin Energy Authority
Ross Valley Fire JPA

Non-Council Appointments:

Bolinas Avenue Neighborhood Com. - Chris Martin
DISCO - Patti Shimek
Chief of Protocol - Liz Welsh
Flood Zone 9 Advisory Committee - Chris Martin
Marin Emergency Radio Authority - Tom Gaffney
Mosquito Abatement - Iris Winey
Marin County Commission on Aging - Teri Dowling
Ross Valley Paramedic Authority - Bruce Hart/
Brian Salmen (alternate)



CONTACT INFORMATION

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
Ross Valley Fire	415.258.4686
Town Manager	415.453.1453 x107

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

- | | | | |
|---------|-------|----|---|
| July 3 | 8:00 | am | Special Council Meeting (Closed Session), Town Hall |
| July 4 | 11:00 | am | Annual July 4th Parade and Celebration on the Ross Common |
| July 11 | 6:00 | pm | Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall |
| July 23 | 2:30 | pm | Community Protection Committee Meeting, Town Hall |
| July 24 | 1:00 | pm | Finance Committee Meeting, Town Hall |

AUGUST

No Council Meeting or The Morning After scheduled in August.

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| August 27 | 7:00 | pm | Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall (tentative) |
|-----------|------|----|---|

SEPTEMBER

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|---------|------|----|---|
| Sept 2 | — | — | Town Hall offices closed for Labor Day |
| Sept 12 | 6:00 | pm | Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall |
| Sept 24 | 7:00 | pm | Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall |

RECURRING EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Thursdays, July 11-Sept 26 | Ross Valley Farmers Market, 3:00-7:00 pm, Downtown Ross |
| Thursdays, July 11-Aug 15 | Summer Concert Series, 5:00-7:00 pm, Marin Art & Garden Center |

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