

THE MORNING AFTER

Town of Ross Monthly Newsletter
Includes highlights from the
Ross Town Council Meeting of March 14, 2013

Business Name

Volume 7, Issue 3
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Flood Control Discussion



Photo Courtesy of Richard Torney

Marin County Supervisor Katie Rice, Capital Planning & Project Manager Jack Curley, and FEMA representative Kathy Shaefer, along with Ross Valley Fire Chief Roger Meagor attended last night's Council meeting to discuss flood related issues such as the fish ladder, the new FEMA maps, and to update the Council on the progress of the Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board.

The Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program released their annual report which provides information on what detention basins are, highlights their milestone accomplishments from 2006-2011, 2012 accomplishments and 2013 goals.

Some of their 2013 goals include:

- Identify funding strategy with US Army Corps of Engineers for completing the "Unit 4" federal flood control project to increase creek capacity in Kentfield and Ross.
- Continue annual creek maintenance program efforts with town/city staff to remove debris and flow-inhibiting vegetation before the rainy season.
- Complete the pre-design engineering studies for the Phoenix Lake flood detention project.
- Complete formal agreements with the first four detention basin site owners and begin the design and environmental public review process.

For more information on their flood control efforts, please visit their website at www.rossvalleywatershed.org.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA, Department of Homeland Security) has

revised the Town Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Insurance Study report. The draft flood maps include revisions and modifications to the Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries and now include Base Flood Elevations. FEMA has also added a regulatory floodway area on the Town flood maps. The formal appeal and protest period for the maps began on February 27, 2013, and ends on May 28, 2013. For more information, please review the FEMA published notice of the Flood Hazard Determinations <https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/bfes/notices/BFENotice6312.pdf>. The Projected effective date for the maps and report is March 25, 2014. Further information on the revised FEMA maps can be found on the Town's website at http://www.townofross.org/pages/public_safety/flood_information.html.

Council Considers Downtown Signage



Sample Sign Design

At the request of the downtown merchants, the Council considered directional signage to direct drivers to business in the downtown. The downtown signage issue has been discussed on and off over the years and to date, no such signage has been permitted. The Town has a tradition of keeping signage to a minimum when it comes to drawing attention to the community. Ross, while predominantly a residential community, does have a modest

downtown business district with businesses of value to the community. Integral to the success of many businesses especially small businesses, is people knowing where they are. And a method of assisting those who might want to visit businesses is signage. Nearly all communities with a "business district" have some signage guiding drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. In many cases, the signage is directional
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GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE NEWS

All electronic tolling is coming to the Golden Gate Bridge. Cash will no longer be accepted at the Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza. Testing of the new system began January 30th with the final conversion targeted for the end of March. Learn more at: www.goldengate.org/tolls/.

Stay informed and up to date. Join the Town's email list.
Email llopez@townofross.org to join.



Rupert Russell
Mayor

The Mayor's Report



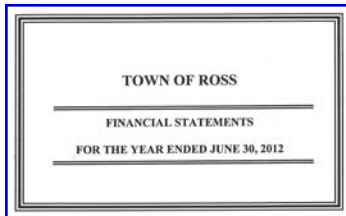
The spring has not yet begun but the clocks have moved forward. The sun has been out, the daffodils are in bloom on Lagunitas Avenue, and cherry blossoms can be seen on Shady Lane, and as we trim the hedges, cut back the overgrown vegetation, and mow the lawn, we feel lucky again to live in the beautiful environment that is Ross. We should, though, not forget that so close up to Mount Tamalpais we do experience heavy downpours every year and that, although hopefully the rains are behind us for this season, sometimes it can feel like we live in a rainforest.

As a result, last night we had a lively discussion of flood control issues. We welcomed, among others, to assist us in developing future policy for flood mitigation, Katie Rice, our County Supervisor, Jack Curley, the County's hydrologist, and Kathy Schaefer from FEMA, as well as

our own Town hydrologist, Matt Smeltzer, and the fire chief for the Ross Valley Fire Department, Roger Meagor. Their attendance on this critical issue was very much appreciated. As we enjoy warmer weather again in the coming months we must not allow dealing with flooding or other disasters to slip from being a key priority for the Town for today and for years to come. We have to keep asking ourselves what the Town can do on its own and in conjunction with the other surrounding municipalities, the County, the state and the federal government to ameliorate this issue. We have set an important example for others, by rebuilding the Lagunitas Bridge and by creating and implementing the Stormwater Ordinance, but there remains much more to do.

On a separate note, Town residents should be aware a review of Ross Rec is currently being considered and I expect this will

appear on the agenda for one or more Council meetings in the coming months. Recently the Town attorney provided a memo advising that Ross Rec is an entity of the Town of Ross and is no different from any other Town Council Committee. The Council has appointed two Council members to serve as an ad hoc committee to work with the Ross Rec Committee to address the compliance matters contained in the Town Attorney memorandum. No decisions have yet been made and information gathering is currently underway. There will be plenty of opportunity for residents and others affected to weigh in as decisions get made and issues are addressed.



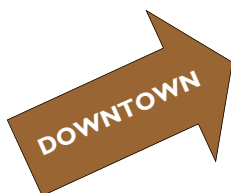
Council Accepts FY 2012 Audit Report

Each year the Town hires an independent auditor to prepare an audit of the Town financial statements. The most recent audit completed is for the year ended June 30, 2012. There was one compliance finding in the audit having to do with Town investment. In This issue has been addressed and the Town is now in compli-

ance. In summary, the auditor found in all other respects, the financial position of the Town and all accompanying activities, fund information, and changes in financial position are in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards. A copy of the audit is available on the Town's website at:

http://www.townofross.org/page/town_departments/town_finance.html.

Downtown Signage Considered (Continued from Page 1)



showing a category of business versus the name of specific businesses. One of the challenges with signage, is they have a consistent design, are made of quality materials that last and are sized appropriately to balance

the need for drivers to adequately read the sign, and at the same time be suitable for the community in which they may be placed.

The Council asked staff to pro-

vide sign wording for the proposed number of signs (6). Staff will bring back to the Council for consideration at the April 11th meeting.

Construction Ordinance Revisited

The Police Department enforces the Town ordinance prohibiting construction beyond permitted times and on weekends. There have been some questions about the Town ordinance, so we would like to clarify some of the issues.

Construction is permitted Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm only. It is not permitted Saturdays, Sunday or holidays, with these exceptions:

- Work done solely in the interior of a building or structure, the performance of which does not create any noise which is audible from the exterior of the

building or structure; **(Workers would be permitted to be on site and working on the interior as long as no noise was made.)**

- Work actually physically performed solely by the owner of the property, on Saturday between the hours of ten a.m. and four p.m. and not at any time on Sundays or other holidays. **(The owner may work on their own property at times.)**
- Upon issuance of a building permit authorizing an exception.

NOTE: What is prohibited by the ordinance is the actual construction work. The arrival of workers on site and clean

up and departure are not actual construction. No actual work is permitted beyond permitted times.

Please report any prohibited construction to the Police Department. We will respond and require any prohibited construction to cease at once. We hope this will help clear up any misconceptions and provide residents with information to eliminate unnecessary noise.

If you have any questions regarding construction beyond permitted times and on weekends, please contact Police Chief Erik Masterson at (415) 453-1453 ext. 101.



Erik Masterson
Police Chief

Leaf Blower Use



We have received complaints of leaf blower noise on the weekends. Here is a reminder of the facts for leaf blower use:

- Electric leaf blowers are permitted Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- Only property owners may use leaf blowers on Saturdays between 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 pm.

- No leaf blowers are allowed on Sundays and holidays.
- Gasoline powered leaf blowers are permitted only if the Public Works Department issues a special permit.
- Gardeners may use power mowers on Saturday between 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., but may not use leaf blowers of any kind on the weekend.

If you have a complaint of a gasoline powered leaf blower,

please report it to the Police Department at (415) 453-1453 option 2.

A copy of the leaf blower fact sheet is available (in both English & Spanish) on the Town's website at: http://www.townofross.org/pdf/resource_center/Leaf%20Blower%20Use.pdf.

Removal of Garbage Cans (after pick-up)



The Town ordinance requires that all garbage cans/recycling containers be stored out of public view except on pick-up days.

Please be sure to take in your containers after pick up. There have been some complaints about containers being left out and we are working with folks to resolve those individual issues.

Thanks for doing your part.



Senior Planner
Elise Semonian

Planning Application Scoreboard

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications considered at last night's Council meeting. For more information on each planning application, visit www.townofross.org/pages/town_council/staff_reports.html. The minutes of this meeting will be available on the website at www.townofross.org after approval at the April 2013 Council meeting.

Address	Applicant	Council Action	Vote (for/against/abstain)
18 Upper Road West	Clifford & Adriana Booth	Approved	5-0-0
220 Wellington Avenue	Jim & Megan Calhoun	Approved	5-0-0
90 Sir Francis Drake Blvd	Michael Board	Approved with additional landscaping	4-0-1 (Brekhus abstained)
8 Woodside Way	Drew & Miriam Manning	Approved	3-1-1 (Hoertkorn abstained, Small only opposed to double doors on side of garage)
92 Shady Lane	Bill & Jenny Reilly	Fence height variance approved, remainder continued to April 11, 2013	3-0-2 (Brekhus & Russell abstained)
33 Wellington Avenue	Ken & Alison Pickart	Continued	--



New California Recycling Requirement for Businesses and Multifamily Dwellings (AB 341)

A new state law, California Assembly Bill (AB) 341, requires all businesses that generate four (4) or more cubic yards of waste per week to recycle. Businesses include, but are not limited to, non-profits, strip malls, government offices, and schools. The law also applies to multifamily dwellings of five (5) units or more, regardless of the amount of waste generated.

Businesses and multifamily dwellings are required to separate recyclable materials from their solid waste stream and either self-haul, subscribe to a hauler (which in Ross is Marin Sanitary Service), and/or allow the pickup of recyclables.

If you would like more information on waste reduction programs, please visit Zero Waste Marin www.zerowastemarin.org or call (415) 473-6647.

What's Next...

- The Advisory Design Review Group will meet on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Public Works Committee will meet on Thursday, March 28, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.
- The next regular Town Council meeting will be held on April 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. Agendas and staff reports are posted in advance of the meeting on the Town's website at www.townofross.org. All meetings are held at Town Hall unless indicated otherwise. You may email Council members by accessing the website at www.townofross.org/pages/contact_email_council.html.

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