

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 | Issue 5 | May 2014

### Mayor's Corner



Beach Kuhl

Since 1960, the American Public Works Association (APWA) has sponsored National Public Works Week.

Across North America, our more than 28,000 members in the US and Canada use this week (May 19<sup>th</sup> to May 25<sup>th</sup>) to educate the public on the importance of the contribution of public works to their daily lives: planning, building, managing and operating the heart of our local communities and building the quality of life.

This year's theme "Building for Today, Planning for Tomorrow" represents the classic idea of stewardship embodied by the profession of public works and the professionals that practice it.

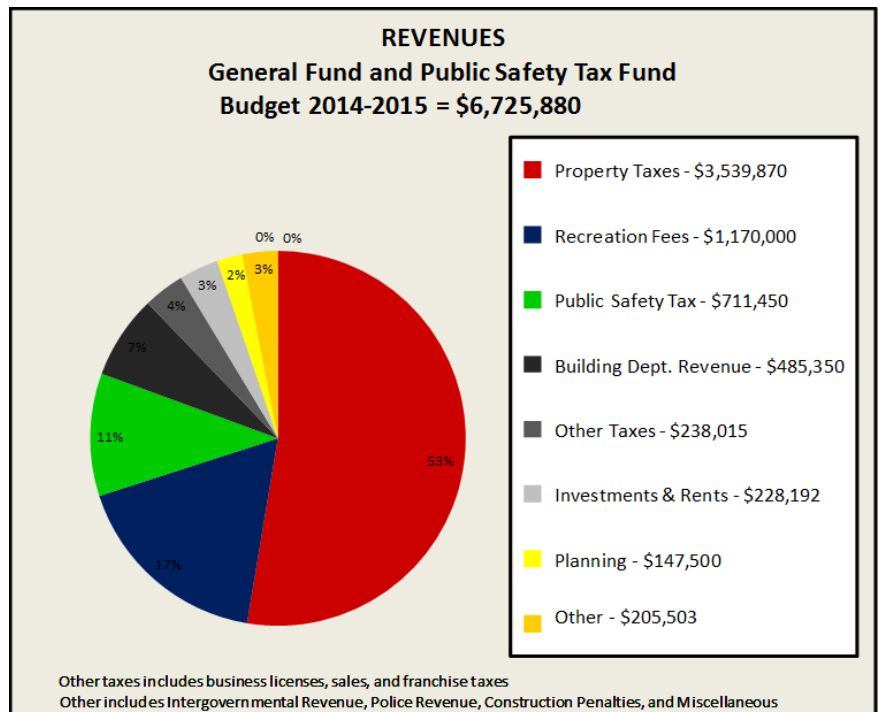
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### HIGHLIGHTS

2. Budget Highlights
3. Planning
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4. National Bike Month
4. Public Safety
5. Calendar

### Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Highlights

On April 29<sup>th</sup> the Council held a budget workshop to discuss the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. The Council reviewed a comprehensive budget report prepared by the Town Manager and staff. The following is a brief summary.



Finances improved in FY14 and at the present time are trending positive heading into FY15. There are a number of contributing factors including a better economic climate (e.g., the housing market continues to rebound including higher average home sales prices and greater number of sales), higher property tax revenues, Measure D Public Safety parcel tax revenues, the results of Council actions taken in the FY14 budget including ensuring revenues were aligned with costs, taking measures to have employees (i.e., public safety and miscellaneous) start paying their CalPERS employee share of pension costs, transferring construction penalty income to the facilities fund and related measures.

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## Mayor's Corner - continued from page 1

The theme, "Building for today, Planning for tomorrow" recognizes that what we do today is vital to a sustainable and vibrant tomorrow. Public works plays a key role in the planning, building and maintenance of infrastructure projects in their communities that will allow future generations to enjoy a higher quality of life. National Public Works Week (NPWW) calls attention to the importance of public works in community life. The Week seeks to enhance the prestige of the often-unsung heroes of our society-the professionals who serve the public good every day with quiet dedication. In Ross, we want to take this moment to recognize National Public Works Week and to thank our two public works staff Robert and Buzz who day in and day out work to keep culverts and our storm drains cleared, maintain our street signage, ensure obstructions are not blocking the road right-of-way and much more. Thank you Robert and Buzz.

At the recently held Council Budget workshop on April 29<sup>th</sup> the Council reviewed a balanced budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which will be considered for approval at a special meeting to be held May 22<sup>nd</sup>. One item highlighted at the workshop was the impact of additional pending changes to California Public Employee retirement (CalPERS) rates. The pending additional rate increases are expected to make it more challenging to balance the budget in future years, even if the community's voters agree to renew the public safety tax in 2016.

We are also currently preparing for amendments to the Town's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) map to enhance our protection from potentially disastrous wildland fires and we are keeping closely involved in the Ross Valley's flood control program. We will be providing more information on these efforts in the coming months. ■

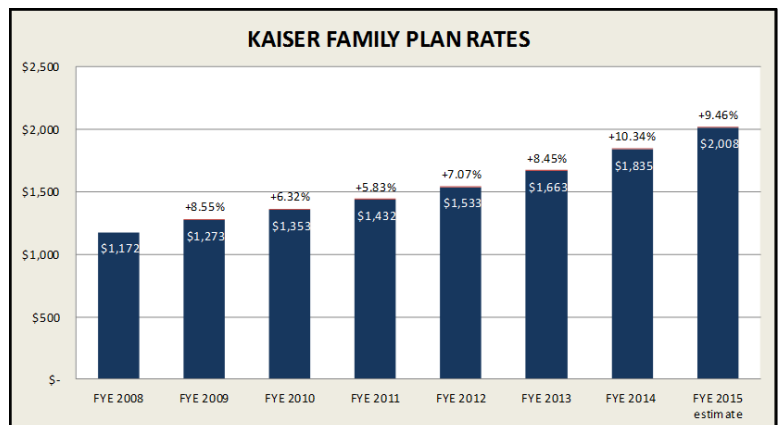
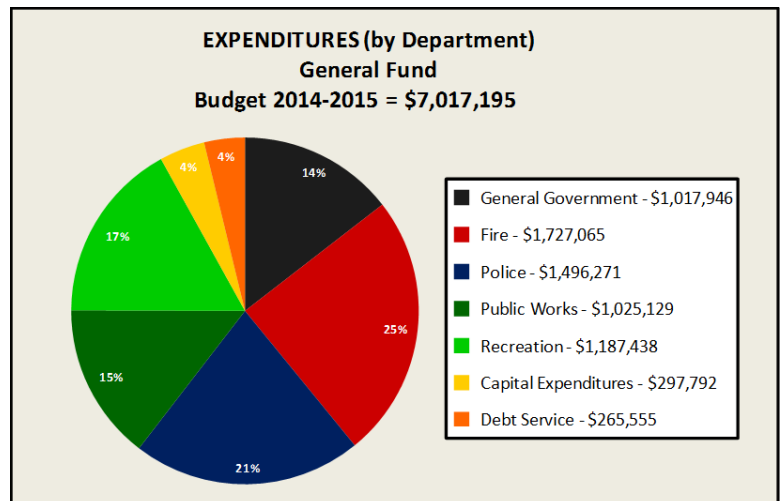
## Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Discussion continued from page 1

Based on ongoing revenues and expenditure savings it is projected the Town will end the year in a positive financial position. It is anticipated other than use of the Legal Defense fund, the Town will not require fund transfers to balance the budget except for a transfer from the Public Safety Tax Fund. The Public Safety Tax (Measure D passed in November 2012) continues to be essential for the Town to provide municipal public safety services.

The largest revenue source for the Town is property tax revenues. And as has been the case for several years the largest expenditure in the budget are expenditures for Fire and then Police. Fire and Police comprise \$3.5M or 46% of total General Fund expenditures by department. New for the budget this coming year is inclusion of Recreation services in the budget. This is the result of the Town taking on recreation under the auspices of the Town.

Major capital projects include completion of the Sir Francis Drake/Lagunitas intersection project, additional improvements to the lower section of Bolinas Avenue from Shady Lane to the Sir Francis Drake intersection including landscaping the Bolinas median and design of the future Winship Bridge replacement.

Final adoption of the budget will occur May 22<sup>nd</sup> at a special Council meeting. The draft FY15 budget can be viewed online on the Town website. ■



## PLANNING



Elise Semonian

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the May Council meeting. For more information on each planning application, click [here](#). The minutes for this meeting will be available at [www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org) after adoption at the June 2014 Council meeting. An audio file of this meeting will be posted on the [website](#) the day after the meeting.

**Address: 7 Woodhaven Road**  
**Applicant: Anish Patel & Erica Johnson**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 6 Southwood Avenue**  
**Applicant: Darr & Sandy Aley**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: Upper Road Land Division Project**  
**Applicant: Berg Family**  
**Council Action: None**  
**Comments on the Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) may be submitted to the Town until May 19, 2014. A public hearing on the final SEIR and the merits of the project will be scheduled for a future date.**

**Address: 33 Wellington Avenue**  
**Applicant: Ken & Alison Pickart**  
**Council Action: Denied**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 2-3-0 (Kuhl, Hoertkorn, Small opposed)**

**Address: 4 Canyon Road**  
**Applicant: Chris & Mary McFadden**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 179 Lagunitas Road**  
**Applicant: Gardenia L.P.**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Hoertkorn recused)**



## SFD/ Lagunitas Road Intersection Project

The Council awarded the construction contract for the Sir Francis Drake Blvd/Lagunitas Road Intersection Project to Ghilotti Bros., Inc., the lowest responsive bidder, in the amount of \$597,883.25. Coastland Civil Engineering was contracted to provide the design of the intersection improvements (plans, specifications and engineer's estimate), and administer the bid process. Three bids were received and opened on March 3, 2014. The project is funded by federal funds which require the contractor to use Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) subcontractors and/or materials on the project. The Town has established a DBE goal of 5.8% for this project. Though the two other bids received were lower than Ghilotti Bros., they did not meet the DBE and Good Faith Effort (GFE) requirements. Ghilotti Bros. has a 6.94% DBE participation which exceeds the project goal and meets the GFE requirement.



The principal goal of the project is to improve automobile, pedestrian, and bicycle safety. The intersection improvements include removing the free right turn lane and pedestrian islands at the Sir Francis Drake and Lagunitas Road intersection, providing ADA access, replacing curb, gutter and sidewalk, relocating traffic signal poles, and removal of Town Hall drop-off parking. Existing road surfaces will also be milled and repaved to a depth of 3”.

Council discussed a sketch of the landscaping improvements design completed by MacNair Landscape. The project is scheduled to begin in mid-June 2014 after school is out, and be completed by early August 2014. ■



## National Bike Month



May is National Bike Month, sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists and celebrated in communities from coast to coast. Established in

1956, National Bike Month is a chance to showcase the many benefits of bicycling — and encourage more folks to giving biking a try. Whether you bike to work or school; ride to save money or time; pump those pedals to preserve your health or the environment; or simply to explore your community, National Bike Month is an opportunity to celebrate the unique power of the bicycle and the many reasons we ride.

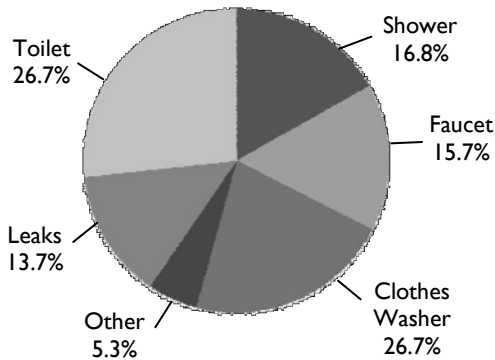
## Think Green



### Save Water and Money —Fix a Leak

Household leaks account for 13.7% of water used indoors. A single household's leaks can result in more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted a year, which is the equivalent of water needed to wash 270 loads of laundry. Every drop counts during this time of drought and critically low water supplies, so, check your home for leaks and fix them.

### How Much Water Do We Use?



Source: American Water Works Association Research Foundation, "Residential End Uses of Water."

## PUBLIC SAFETY



On Saturday, March 29, 2014, Ross Police investigated a burglary on Bridge Rd. The residents told us an unknown person took various electronics and other items from just

inside an unlocked front door while the residents were sleeping upstairs.

Central Marin Police (CMP) responded to a call of a car left in Corte Madera by a man observed wiping down the car at 7 a.m. Monday morning. The car was registered to an Allen Avenue resident, who informed them the car had been taken from their driveway sometime overnight (the keys were left in the unlocked car). Ross Police processed the car for evidence and CMP handled the car release to the owner.

Ross Police developed a possible suspect who had been a prior area resident: Mr. Eric Wykowski. It was learned Mr. Wykowski, was on active probation, may be staying at a vacant family residence on Allen Avenue.

On Tuesday, April 1, 2014, Ross Police went to the residence to conduct a probation search. Mr. Wykowski refused to open the door, the police forced entry and arrested Mr. Wykowski. Property from the Bridge Road burglary was found next to where Mr. Wykowski had been sleeping.

Mr. Wykowski was taken to Marin General Hospital for a medical check and admitted for treatment. He left prior to completing treatment. There is probable cause to arrest Mr. Wykowski for charges related to this incident and the case was referred to the District Attorney's Office for an arrest warrant.

The Ross Police Department does not expect Mr. Wykowski to return to the Ross residence. Police are performing daily area checks and Bay Area law enforcement agencies have been notified probable cause exists to arrest Mr. Wykowski. Mr. Wykowski was arrested on April 29, 2014 in San Francisco for a San Francisco based robbery, and he currently is in custody in San Francisco. The Marin charges are still pending against him. ■



## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 320  
Ross, CA 94957

**Street Address:** 31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd  
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

### MAY 2014

May 8	6:00 pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
May 10	9:00-3:00 pm	Ross Garden Tour, Ross Common
May 12	2:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting, Town Hall
May 22	6:00 pm	Special Council Meeting - Budget Public Hearing, Town Hall
May 26	-- --	Town Hall offices closed for Memorial Day
May 27	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

### JUNE 2014

Jun 12	6:00 pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Jun 24	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

### JULY 2014

Jul 4	-- --	Town Hall offices closed for Independence Day
Jul 10	6:00 pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Jul 22	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

### RECURRING EVENTS

Thursdays, May 29-Sept 25 Ross Valley Farmers Market, 3:00-7:00 pm, Downtown Ross  
 Thursdays, June 26-Aug 14 Summer Concert Series, 5:00-7:00 pm, Marin Art & Garden Center

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