

THE MORNING AFTER

*Highlights from the
Ross Town Council Meeting
of October 16, 2008*

Volume 2, No. 10

October 17, 2008

Ross Celebrates 100 Years!



Photos: Gary Scales



Mayor Bill Cahill's Report

I want to congratulate the Town on the Centennial Celebration held on September 19 and 20. This was a most memorable and joyful two-day celebration unlike any other the Town had ever seen. I am very proud to be part of a Town with such talent and community-minded spirit.

Phase one of the Shady Lane Pathway to School project was completed last week. I am very pleased with the way it turned out. So far the reviews have been positive.

The Farmers Market completed its first year in downtown Ross. Again I have heard positive reports. If members of the public would like to see it continue next year, please let me or Gary Broad know.

On Monday, October 6, we held what I think is the first ever joint Town Council/School Board meeting. Ken Fineman, the President of the School Board, requested the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues related to the construction of the lower school and the new gym. The Council affirmed its commitment to help the School expedite the construction process. Both the School and the Council agreed to improve communication.

I'm pleased to report that the Town of Ross has received a funding commitment for a \$67,000 FEMA grant. The grant is under the Flood Mitigation Assistance program and will provide funds for the town to hire a consultant to prepare a disaster mitigation plan.

Shady Lane Pathway Phase 1 Completed

The first phase of the Shady Lane Safe Pathways to School project from Lagunitas Road to Southwood Avenue is complete and it looks great!

Public Works Supervisor Robert Maccario, Buzz Doughty, and the Nerviani Paving crew did all the preparation work on the path. They replaced culverts, repaved some driveway sections, hand dug the drainage ditch along Shady Lane, leveled the path, made ramps at the driveways and cut back brush. Project contractor McGuire and Hester laid the decomposed granite with binder last week and applied the sealer coat Monday.



As one Shady Lane resident wrote, "We just walked on it and we love it. It looks great and is really a joy!" Watch for cars when crossing driveways and enjoy the new pathway safely. Stay tuned for phase two to Bolinas Avenue in the spring of 2009.



Council Supports Ross School Project

The Town Council approved the Ross School District's request to use the Ross Common for a temporary campus and construction staging area for an additional five months. The permit will now expire on July 31, 2010.

The Council also discussed a potential lot line adjustment between the Town of Ross and the Ross School District to transfer approximately equal land areas between the Ross Common and the Ross School properties. The School requested the lot line

adjustment to allow their multi-purpose/gym building to meet necessary setbacks from the property line. The land swap provides the School District with an additional five feet of land behind the gym and theater building, while the Town gains land in the grove area. Council members voiced support for the proposal and will act on a formal lot line adjustment application at its November meeting.

Centennial Committee Applauded

The Town Council adopted a resolution commending Chief of Protocol Molly Gamble and Centennial Committee Chairs for their outstanding efforts on the Town's 100-year centennial celebration. The resolution praises the Centennial Committee for their creative ideas, enthusiasm, and vision to create an unforgettable and historical celebration.

The Centennial Committee consisted of: Co-Chairs Molly Gamble and Kirsten Polsky, Activities Chair Lesley Reidy, Centennial Dinner Chair Dianne Fruin, Controller Chair Marianne Jacobson, Entertainment Co-Chairs Janey Kuhl and Betty Zampa, Honorary Residents Chair Cindy Livermore, Honorary Mayors and Council Members Chair Anne Flemming, Marin Art & Garden Center Liaison and Communications Chair Diane Doodha, Merchandise Chair Nicole Duncan, Publicity Chair Joohee Muromcew, Newsletter Chair Ruth Krueger, Parade Co-Chairs Roseanna Lourdeaux and Wendy Battey, Ross School Chair Libby Tracy, Ross School Alumni Chair Elizabeth Robbins, Ticket Sales Chair Ann Sutro, Town Cake Chair Beth Allen, and Town Liaison Chair Linda Lopez. Thank you all!



Mayor Bill Cahill presented signed resolutions to Chief of Protocol Molly Gamble and Centennial Committee chairs.

Residents Clean Up Corte Madera Creek

On Saturday, October 4, Council member Chris Martin led a group of 26 volunteers on a three-hour creek clean up. Council Members Michael Skall and Scott Hunter pitched in, along with Town Manager Gary Broad and Public Works Director Mel Jarjoura.

Public Works Supervisor Robert Maccario educated the group on creek stewardship, pointing out examples of good and bad practices by creekside property owners. Town firefighters carried brush and loaded the debris box and dump truck. Branson and Ross School students also helped in exchange for public service credit hours.

Only two homeowners living along the creek participated in the cleanup, but some Ross highlanders who understand the creek is also their responsibility came out, as did some Kentfield neighbors. B.J. Martin cut down blackberry brambles, dug out tree limbs, carried debris up from the creek, and waded chest deep in water to get a rotten soccer ball. As Robert Maccario noted, "If everyone cared that much for the creeks and worked that hard to improve the drainage and protect our waterways, the town would never flood."



Five Council Goals Update

Council members reported progress on their five Council goals. The Town has selected PDV Consulting to assist in updating job descriptions and formalizing a process for performance reviews. The consultants' first step will be to interview Town Council members and administrative staff this month.

The Council agreed to retain landscaper designers SWA Group to help develop a downtown plan. Detailed ideas should be ready for community and Council review in early 2009.

The Town and the Ross Professional Firefighters' Association have agreed on terms for a new two-year contract.



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, you can view staff reports at <http://www.townofross.org/town-council/current-meeting-reports/>. The minutes of this meeting will be available on the Town website at www.townofross.org after approval at the November Council meeting.

Address	Applicant	Approved	Denied	Continued
92 Shady Lane	Steve and Valerie McKinney			
18 Redwood Drive	Lisa and Michael Gorham			
7 Woodside Way	Stephanie and Lee Notowich			
10 Morrison Road	Margaret Haas			
58 Ivy Road	Susannah Sarlo-Millstein			
54 Baywood Avenue	Ross and Ligia Parmenter			

Upcoming Town Council Meeting

The next Town Council meeting will be on Thursday, November 13, at 6:30 p.m. Agendas and staff reports are posted in advance of the meeting on the town's website at www.townofross.org.

The Morning After is published following each regular Council meeting by The Town of Ross and is written by Project Planner Christine O'Rourke and edited by Town Manager Gary Broad with support from Linda Lopez. The newsletter is not an official record of the meeting's proceedings and does not cover all agenda items. No portion of this newsletter may be copied, reproduced or reprinted without advance written permission from the Town of Ross. If you'd like to receive The Morning After and other town information via email, contact llopez@townofross.org.