

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 | Issue 2 | February 2014

### Mayor's Corner



Beach Kuhl

The Town continues work on several public works projects including the Sir Francis Drake (SFD)/Lagunitas intersection project expected to start construction in June (see accompanying schedule in this report), design of a new Winship Avenue Bridge replacement project (see accompanying article) and design of further pedestrian and vehicular improvements to Bolinas Avenue from the intersection with Sir Francis Drake up to Shady Lane. The latter two projects are in the design phase but once all are constructed they will improve overall vehicular and pedestrian safety and circulation.

Additionally, the Town continues to seek out volunteers to be the Chief of

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### HIGHLIGHTS

2. CalPERS Side Fund Payoff
3. Planning
3. New Business License Info
3. FAR Discussion Continues
4. Winship Bridge Project Awarded
4. SFD/Lagunitas Project Schedule
5. Calendar

### Ross Recreation Positions Approved

The Town Council took action at the February meeting to approve the remaining job descriptions and salaries for the future formation of the Ross Recreation Department including an Organizational Table and Schedule of Positions. The Council also took action creating a new Ross Recreation Advisory Committee to the Council on recreation matters. This later action will be implemented when the Council rescinds the current governing resolutions later in the year. The Council was also given a tentative schedule of additional actions that need to be taken to implement the new department. The detailed report is available on the Town's website [Staff Reports](#) page. ■



### Ross Valley Fire (RVFD) Hires New Chief



The Ross Valley Fire Department Board of Directors announced the appointment of Mark Mills as the new Ross Valley Fire Department Chief, replacing long-time Fire Chief Roger Meagor, who retired in December.

Mills is a 27-year veteran of the fire service. He began his career in firefighting in Newberry, South Carolina and has been the Assistant Fire Chief of the Big Bear Fire Department in California since 2006. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Science and is currently pursuing a Master of Public Administration degree. He holds an Executive Fire Officer Certification from the National Fire Academy, Chief Officer Certification, and has extensive experience in fire prevention.

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## Police

### MOU Approved

The Council approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Ross and the Ross Police Officers Association (RPOA) for the term July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015. The new MOU provides for the following:

- Effective 1/1/14, 3% employee raise for 3% CalPERS employee contribution
- Effective 7/1/14, 3% employee raise for 3% CalPERS employee contribution.

At the end of the contract term, employees will be paying 6% of the 9% CalPERS employee contribution rate, and the Town will be paying a total of 3%.

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Protocol. If you are interested, please contact Linda Lopez, Town Clerk, @ 415.453.1453, x105.



And despite recent rain we are still experiencing drought conditions. The Council received a presentation from the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) on current water supply conditions and methods residents can implement to conserve water. At this juncture MMWD is asking for voluntary compliance to reduce water usage. ■

## RVFD Hires New Fire Chief

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“Mark is a proven leader in the fire service with experience in consolidated organizations like Ross Valley, and we look forward to welcoming him to the department,” said RVFD Board

Chair and Council Member Carla Small. Mills commented, “...I intend to uphold the high standards of service that have been implemented by my predecessor Chief Roger Meagor and I will seek out new efficiencies wherever possible. I look forward to meeting and working with the staff and carrying on the tradition of excellence that the Ross Valley Fire Department has established over the years.”

Mills was selected after a thorough process that included a national search, a series of panel interviews that included the RVFD Board of Directors, Town Managers of Fairfax, Ross and San Anselmo, two Marin Fire Chiefs, and selected RVFD employees.

He plans to start work in Ross Valley on February 24, 2014. ■

## CalPERS Side Fund Early Payoff



On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Town Council approved the early payoff of the CalPERS Side Fund note of \$202,230, that would have been due December 19, 2014.

The Town executed a loan agreement with the County of Marin in December 2012, which paid off the outstanding Side Fund debt owed to CalPERS. The five-year loan repayment schedule requires an annual payment plus interest due each year in December until 2017.

Paying off one of the notes early will enable the Town to save \$6K in interest costs. Also, this action will allow earlier payoff of the entire loan, and retains Council flexibility to allocate FY15 financial resources for operating and capital needs.

The Town made the first loan payment in December 2013, and the Council authorized paying off the December 2014 payment early in February 2014. Contingent on future revenue trends and other factors, the Town may be able to pay off additional notes early. At a minimum, the total notes due will be paid off earlier than the original five-year schedule which will save the Town interest. ■

## PLANNING



*Elise Semonian*

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the February 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 March 2014 Council

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

**Address: 6 Norwood Avenue**

**Applicant: Charles & Jan Hoeveler**

**Council Action: Approved**

**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 77 Wellington Avenue**

**Applicant: Lyle Shlager & Andrea Langenberg**

**Council Action: Approved**

**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 19 Ross Common**

**Applicant: Elizabeth Gorek**

**Council Action: Approved**

**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 25 Sir Francis Drake Blvd**

**Applicant: POLA 25 LLC**

**Council Action: Continued**

**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**



### Apply or Renew Business License - Now Available Online

As you may know, the Town now contracts its business license services with HdL Company. They handle all business licenses for the Town. For your convenience, you may now apply or renew your business license directly online from the Town's [website](#). Simply complete the form and submit. If you have any questions regarding business licenses, please contact HdL directly at 888-602-0239.



## FAR Discussion Continues

The General Government Committee (GGC) held a public meeting on January 21st to discuss a proposal to potentially exclude garage space from floor area ratio (FAR). The meeting was well attended and comments were received from 30 residents. The majority of those present did not favor excluding



garage space from floor area. However, many of the attendees believed the Council should further analyze Town FARs, and the matter was brought back to the February Council meeting for further discussion.

At last night's meeting, the Council indicated the problem is all the requests for exceptions to the maximum floor area. The Council wished to further analyze existing FAR levels and potential modifications to the FAR. They directed staff to return with a timeline for additional analysis of floor area. Staff will return in March with a draft ordinance that would permit residents to maintain nonconforming floor area on site redevelopment and eliminate eaves and gutters from lot coverage. Council suggested staff consider if any modifications to the attic and basement ordinance would be appropriate to allow more residents to improve these types of spaces. ■

## ADR Members Appointed

The Council reappointed Jim Kemp and Mark Fritts to the Advisory Design Review Group (ADR) to serve a two-year term. Both Mr. Kemp and Mr. Fritts are architects and have served on ADR since its inception in 2008 as design professional members. No other applications were received.

The Advisory Design Review Group is a volunteer committee appointed by the Council composed of five Ross residents, including residents that have professional design backgrounds in architecture, landscape design or other comparable fields. The Advisory Design Review Group provides professional review of design-related issues, enabling applicants to receive helpful advice early in the review process as well as the opportunity for neighbor input and feedback.





**PG&E**  
**Simple Steps**  
**For Emergencies**



Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) encourages customers to make emergency preparedness not only a resolution but one that comes with an action plan. Simple steps like preparing an emergency supply kit and making an emergency communication plan for the family can help keep loved ones connected and ready for a natural disaster. Recent catastrophic events around the world serve as a reminder that first responders may not be able to respond quickly to everyone who needs help during times of crisis. Services that we have come so accustomed to expect - such as water and power - may not be available. A wealth of safety and readiness information is available through [PG&E's website](#) and through the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#). Watch PG&E's Emergency Preparedness Video at <http://youtu.be/a0yGzwjOQl8>.

**SFD/Lagunitas Road**  
**Intersection Project**  
*Proposed Schedule*

The following is a tentative schedule for the Sir Francis Drake Boulevard/Lagunitas Road Intersection Project.

Advertising/Bidding

Advertise Project	1/27/14
Final day for questions	2/24/14
Open Bids	3/3/14
Sign contracts & reports for award	3/7/14

Project Kick-off

Kick-off meeting	3/11/14
Begin processing submittals	3/11/14
All submittals complete & approved	4/15/14

Project Construction

Ross School - last day	6/12/14
Begin Mobilization	6/9/14
Construction starts - first working day	6/16/14
Construction ends - last working day	8/1/14
First day of school	8/21/14

**WINSHIP BRIDGE**  
**REPLACEMENT PROJECT**  
**CONTRACT AWARDED**



The Council awarded the construction contract for the Winship Bridge design and environmental work to Quincy Engineering in the amount of 655,700, plus project engineering management costs to

Moe Engineering for \$65,000, bringing the total cost to \$720,700. This phase of the project is only for design and environmental work **not** construction.

The Winship Bridge was constructed in 1909 and is functionally obsolete due to its substandard deck geometry, and has a sufficiency rating (SR) of 54.4 (out of 100 in the latest Structure Inventory and Appraisal Report), making it a candidate for "rehabilitation" using Highway Bridge Program (HBP) funds. An approximately 70-foot long, 37.5-foot wide replacement bridge with concrete barrier will be constructed on both sides to provide sidewalks that are required. The new bridge must provide an increased creek channel capacity while minimizing approach roadway impacts. Various bridge types will be considered including single and two-span.

The design engineering work includes a timeline from July 2014 to December 2016.

**Energy Upgrade California**



Have you been looking for ways to make your home more comfortable with better air quality all while saving money on monthly utility bills? Now it's easier than ever to take advantage of up to \$5,800 in incentives from Energy Upgrade California and Marin County for completing

a project that meets your home comfort and energy efficiency goals. Free assistance is available by contacting a Home Upgrade Advisor at 866-878-6008, who will guide you through every step of the process. More information can be found at [www.marincounty.org/energyupgrade](http://www.marincounty.org/energyupgrade).

## 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

### FEBRUARY 2014

Feb 1	—	—	Deadline for submitting ADR appointment application
Feb 10-Mar 7	—	—	Filing period for submitting nomination papers for a Council seat
Feb 13	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Feb 17	—	—	Town Hall offices closed for Presidents Day
Feb 25	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

### MARCH 2014

Mar 13	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 25	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

### APRIL 2014

Apr 10	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Apr 22	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Apr 29	9:00-1:00	pm	Special Council Meeting - Budget Workshop, MAGC Livermore Rm

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