

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 | Issue 7 | July 2014

### Mayor's Corner



Beach Kuhl

We had a very successful July Fourth celebration, with a parade featuring bicyclists, motor vehicles of various types and vintages, an appearance by Uncle Sam and numerous marching groups and food trucks to supply the needs of the many picnickers who attended. Thanks are due the Ross Property Owners Association, the Moya Library/Ross Historical Society and the Ross School PTA, to the many individuals who helped out in various ways and particularly, to our Mayor Pro Tem, Elizabeth Brekhus who, when needed, stepped up to lead the organization of the event. Our small town continues to provide a big time celebration of this patriotic holiday. It's a great tradition.

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### Welcome New & Returning Council



Council Member  
Elizabeth Robbins

Council member Robbins has lived in Ross with her husband, Stephen Hauser, since 1992; their three sons are all graduates of Ross School. She is a physician and clinical professor at UCSF; her specialty is pediatric oncology. She served as a member of the Ross School Board for 16 years and was the Marin County Trustee of the Year in 2012. She has been a member of the Marin County School District Organization Committee for the past 11 years.



Council Member  
Carla Small

Council member Small begins her second term in office. She is a long time resident of Ross and has held leadership roles in a number of community organizations including the Ross Property Owners Association and the Ross School, and led the 2012 campaign for the successful passage of the Ross Public Safety Tax measure. She was elected to the Town Council in 2010, served as Mayor in 2011-12, and was reappointed to office in March 2014. ■

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### Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem Appointed

The Council appointed Elizabeth Brekhus as Mayor and Katie Hoertkorn as Mayor Pro Tempore.

Mayor Brekhus presented outgoing Mayor Beach Kuhl with a commemorative gavel plaque and thanked him for his year of service as Mayor.



Elizabeth Brekhus  
Mayor



## Mayor's Corner - continued from page 1

This meeting marks the end of my year serving as the Town's Mayor. I appreciate the honor my fellow Council members afforded me by choosing me for this position. It has taken perhaps a bit more time than I expected but has provided a lot more satisfaction than anticipated. Really, the Town staff makes the job easy. They deserve the credit for the many accomplishments of the last year. Town Manager Rob Braulik outlined the year's accomplishments at last night's meeting. His report is available on the Town website.



I look forward to continuing to serve on the Council, which I am sure will continue to be collaborative and open. My sincere thanks to all. ■



Photo courtesy of Wendy Battey

### Welcome New Ross Recreation Manager



The Town welcomed Mike Armstrong at the July Council meeting. He began his new position as Recreation Manager on July 1st. Mike commented, "I am excited to be joining the Ross team and look forward to continuing to provide excellent recreation programming to the community."

Mike most recently was Director of Facilities with Schools of the Sacred Heart in San Francisco. He has nearly thirty years of experience in facilities management; sports, leisure and recreation services management including work at the University of San Francisco, Richmond Parks and Recreation Department and the City of Albany. He has earned a Master of Science in Recreation and Park Administration from California State University Sacramento, and Bachelors of Science in Natural Resources Conservation from U.C. Berkeley where he graduated with honors. ■

### Council Considers Regulating Plastic Carryout Bags

The Council introduced an ordinance that would prohibit the use of plastic single-use carryout bags by specified retailers, and impose a mandatory charge for each recyclable paper carryout bag distributed by retailers.



In May, 2013, the Marin County Grand Jury issued its report "Holding the Bag" which encouraged the Marin Hazardous & Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to prepare the Model Single-Use Bag Ordinance to implement the strictest rules possible and encourage all agencies to adopt the ordinance. The JPA, of which Ross is a member, has prepared the ordinance for consideration by each of the member agencies. The ban on single-use plastic bags would be imposed in all grocery stores, convenience stores, pharmacies and restaurants within the County. The intent of the ordinance is to reduce the environmental impacts related to plastic carryout bags, and to promote a shift toward the use of reusable carryout bags.

The Council also adopted a Resolution certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) the JPA published in January 2014, that could be used by member agencies for ordinance adoption. Read the full staff report [here](#). ■

## PLANNING RESULTS



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 for this meeting will be available at [www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org) after adoption at the September 2014 Council meeting. *Note there will be no August Council meeting.* An audio file of this meeting will be posted on the [website](#) the day after the meeting.

**Address:** 61 Sir Francis Drake Blvd  
**Applicant:** Robert & Jennifer Balmaseda  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 3-0-2 (Brekhus, Small recused)

**Address:** 18 Canyon Road  
**Applicant:** Lucienne Hoffman  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 5-0-0

**Address:** 27 Sir Francis Drake Blvd  
**Applicant:** Glenn & Denise Greenberg  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 5-0-0

**Address:** 51 Shady Lane  
**Applicant:** Nick & Gita Stiritz  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 4-0-1 (Robbins recused)

**Address:** 48 Loma Linda  
**Applicant:** Hardy & Kim Hodges  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 4-0-1 (Kuhl recused)

## Council Discusses New Town Signs



The Council approved the replacement of the existing Fire & Police sign in front of the public safety building. The sign has deteriorated over the years and the support posts have rotted necessitating it being replaced. The staff also recommended a new sign for Town Hall as there has been no clear signage in the past for people to easily locate the building. The recommended signs



match the design and materials used for the downtown and other directional signs installed last year. The Council weighed the options of aluminum vs. wood with aluminum costing about 50% less, and opted for wood signs.

The Council also discussed changing the design of the Town's street



signs to match the design standard for the downtown and other directional signs. The current signs are the standard green and white signs seen in most communities. The Council approved changing the design standard for street signs. ■

## Every DROP Counts

Conserving water is nothing new to Californians. Many of us have grown up turning off the water while brushing our teeth, shaving and washing our hands. We know to only start the dishwasher or do the laundry when we have full loads. However, 60 percent of our water is used outdoors. [Use Water-Wise Plants](#). A water-wise garden will help save even more water and money. California water-wise plants are perfectly suited for our mild winters and warm, dry summers. They're low maintenance, use little water and do not need soil preparation or fertilizing. More information on drought resistant plants can be found at [www.marinwater.org](http://www.marinwater.org). [Get on a Watering Schedule](#). A watering schedule appropriate for California's climate and water-wise plants will keep your plants hydrated with the least amount of water, saving you money. [Use Efficient Irrigation Equipment](#). The right equipment will enable you to water your garden efficiently and get the most from every drop. Rotating spray nozzles save more water than you think...up to 7,500 gallons per year. See the following links on [Irrigation](#) & [Conservation](#) at MMWD's website for more details.



## 2015 Council Meeting Dates

The Council approved the following dates for the regular 2015 Council meetings:

- Tuesday, January 13\*
- Thursday, February 13
- Thursday, March 12
- Thursday, April 9
- Thursday, May 14
- Thursday, June 11
- Thursday, July 9
- No August Meeting
- Thursday, September 10
- Thursday, October 8
- Thursday, November 12
- Thursday, December 10

\* Date change due to Town Hall office holiday closure

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Bicycle Safety:

A new California traffic law (AB 1371) requires drivers passing a bicycle heading in the same direction, to go past it at a distance not less than three feet. However, if it is not possible, you must slow down to a reasonable speed. You are only allowed to pass when there is no potential danger. This law will go into effect on September 16, 2014, so get into the habit now of giving bicyclists three feet of space.



California Vehicle Code (CVC) 22107 requires cyclists to yield and signal before moving left or right, and CVC 21212 requires cyclists under the age of 18 to wear helmets.



## Ross Recognized by the EPA as Green Power Community

The Town of Ross was recognized as a [Green Power Community](#) by the Environmental Protection Agency again in 2014 for choosing to use Marin Clean Energy's (MCE) renewable power. This is the Town's second year receiving the honor. The EPA's Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program that encourages organizations to use green power as a way to reduce the environmental impacts associated with conventional electricity use. The Town of Ross was instrumental in founding MCE, a public, not-for-profit electricity provider that saves customers money. MCE customers are expected to save \$5.9 million in 2014. Customers also benefit from the increased stability of rate changes only once per year. Most of the power MCE supplies comes from CLEAN, RENEWABLE SOURCES such as solar, wind, bioenergy, geothermal, and hydro. MCE also supports local Green jobs and new local renewable energy generation with projects such as: 972 kWh of solar at the San Rafael Airport, 1 MW of solar at a Carport Shade in Novato, and 500 kW of solar at the Novato Cooley Quarry. Learn more on MCE's website: [www.mcecleanenergy.org](http://www.mcecleanenergy.org).

## Ross Celebrates the 4th of July (Photos courtesy of Ed Dong and Wendy Battey)



## ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JULY 2014

Jul 4 -- -- Town Hall offices closed Independence Day  
 Jul 4 11:00 am Ross 4th of July Celebration, Ross Common  
 Jul 10 6:00 pm Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall

*Note: No Advisory Design Review Group meeting scheduled in July.*

### AUGUST 2014

*Note: No Council Meeting scheduled in August. The Morning After will return in September.*

Aug 15 -- -- SFD/Lagunitas Road Project estimated construction completion  
 Aug 26 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

### SEPTEMBER 2014

Sep 1 -- -- Town Hall offices closed Labor Day  
 Sep 11 6:00 pm Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall  
 Sep 22 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall  
 Sep 26 6:00 pm Annual Town Dinner, Marin Art & Garden Center

### RECURRING EVENTS

Thursdays thru September Ross Valley Farmers Market, 3:00-7:00 pm, Downtown Ross  
 Thursdays thru Aug 14 Summer Concert Series, 5:00-7:00 pm, Marin Art & Garden Center



## C O N T A C T U S

<b>Mailing Address:</b>	<b>Street Address:</b>
P.O. Box 320	31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd
Ross, CA 94957	Ross, CA 94957
<b>Administration</b>	415.453.1453 x105
<b>Building</b>	415.453.1453 x106
<b>Planning</b>	415.453.1453 x121
<b>Police</b>	415.453.1453, option 2
<b>Public Works</b>	415.453.1453 x106
<b>Recreation</b>	415.453.6020
<b>Ross Valley Fire</b>	415.258.4686
<b>Town Manager</b>	415.453.1453 x107

[www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org)

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