

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Beach Kuhl

With the beautiful weather we have had this Fall, we haven't had the start of our rainy season, which gets us to thinking about flood control, but there have been activities on that subject. We will be meeting periodically with Supervisor Katie Rice, who is trying to keep this slow-moving process in motion. We will be receiving periodic reports on progress at future Town Council meetings. We do know that one of the first steps will be construction to make Phoenix Lake a holding basin to collect rainwater and keep water out of our creeks until major storms have passed. We are assured the work done will improve recreational and environmental systems at the lake. It will be several years before construction

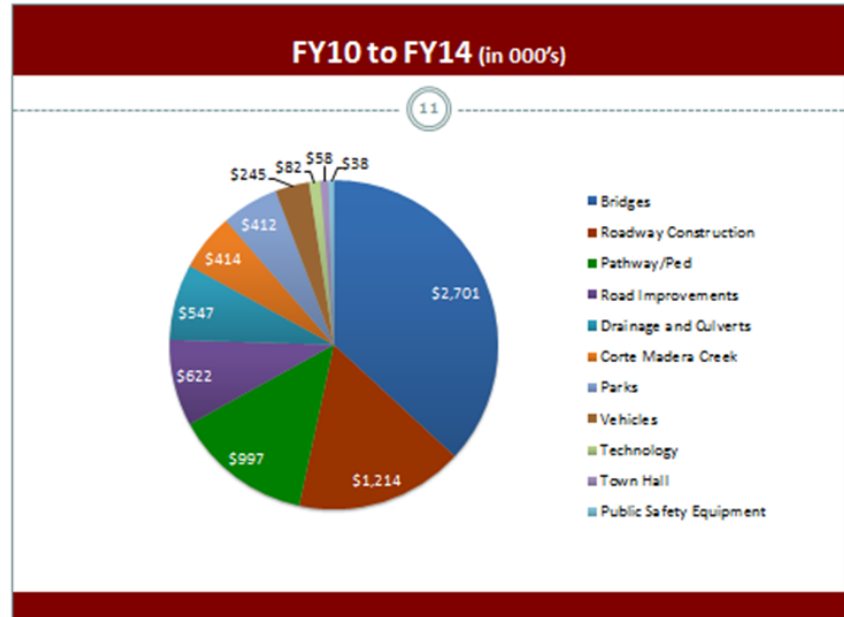
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HIGHLIGHTS

3. Planning
3. Chicken Nuggets
3. Frequent Code Violations
4. Public Safety
4. Chief of Protocol Position
5. Public Works
6. Calendar

Highlights From Town Strategy Workshop

The Ross Town Council met on October 22nd to discuss current and future strategic priorities for the Town. The Council was provided a PowerPoint [presentation](#), staff reports and material presentations. Here are some highlights and action items from the meeting:



- As part of FY15 budget the Council will consider additional capital investment for the current Public Safety facilities (fire and police)
- The Council agreed to invest dollars in FY15 for additional water well capacity that should help with future Ross Common maintenance
- The Council agreed as part of the FY15 budget and going forward to a target annual threshold for capital investment in road maintenance that would maintain the Town's roads and pavement condition
- The Finance Committee will consider in the future policies with respect to restricted funds consistent with Government Accounting

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starts, due to various federal and state agency regulatory approvals needed. We will report more details as they become available.

Our recreation consultant has nearly completed the review of Ross Recreation. We expect to have his report shortly and tentatively have a special meeting on November 21st at Town Hall to consider potential structural organizational changes between the Town and Ross Parks and Recreation Committee (RPRC). We hope all with an interest will attend to express their views.



The Council held a lengthy planning session last month to discuss various issues we expect will need our attention in the coming year. The staff report is available on line. The Council heard comments from residents at the planning meeting. Also for those who may not have been able to attend please provide any comments you may have to me and the Council.

We still continue to look for applicants to take over as the Town's Chief of Protocol in 2014. If you are interested, please see page 4 for details. Finally, remember that the annual Holiday Tree Lighting, sponsored by the Ross Recreation Auxiliary will take place on Friday, December 6th, starting at 4:30 p.m. You can join the Branson School Choir in holiday carols and welcome a Jolly old visitor from the North Pole who will be assisted in the final leg of his journey by our fire and police staff. ■

Highlights From Town Strategy Workshop continued from page 1

Progress	
16	
Municipal finance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AB 1600 report 125 Cafeteria plan Capital budget planning Construction penalty ordinance Fiscal stabilization Investment policy Legacy cost focus Long range financial planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-year reports Municipal cost recovery OPEB fully funded Property database reports Rental property income Risk policy in place U.S.P.S. lease
Progress	
17	
Capital	Accountability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballfield Bolinas safe pathways Cal-Recycle grant Capitalization policy Complete streets policy Council sound system Post office Sheetpile wall Town signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget in brief Comparative quality life report Long range financial forecast Monthly financial reports New Morning After report New Police report Preparedness report Quarterly investment reports Quarterly financial reports Year in review report

- Standards Board (GASB) 54 (formerly called reserve policies), review of funds replenishment associated with FY13 budget balancing and related matters
- The General Government Committee will be looking further into potentially creating variance guidelines, reviewing parking and possibly not counting such spaces as part of the floor area calculation and related planning standards (e.g., contour slope standards, setbacks etc.)
- Agreed to have Town Hall (Administration, Building, Planning, Public Works) closed to the public during the week of Christmas (December 23-27, 2013)
- Agreed to create an FAQ document for work done near creeks
- Agreed to consider potential renovation of the Ross Common athletic fields as part of the FY15 budget
- The Finance Committee and General Government Committees will be considering potential disposition of non-strategic town real property assets where the proceeds could be used for future capital asset investments

The Council heard from a variety of residents particularly on the planning item in which the Council discussed current variance standards and the Attics & Basements Ordinance and how it has worked over recent years. ■

PLANNING



Elise Semonian

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the November Council meeting. For more information on each planning application, click [here](#). The minutes for this meeting will be available on the website www.townofross.org after

adoption at the December 2013 Council meeting. An audio file of this meeting will be posted on the [website](#) the day after the meeting.

Address: 83 Shady Lane
Applicant: Stefanie & Nathaniel Cook
Withdrawn by applicants

Address: 191 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: Paris Royo
Council Action: Denied FAR variance, approved stairs, remainder continued
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-2 (Hoertkorn and Small recused)

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

Address: 34 Poplar Avenue
Applicant: Dante & Mouna Ghilotti
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-1-0 (Kuhl opposed)

Address: 48 Loma Linda
Applicant: Hardy & Kim Hodges
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 4 Allen Avenue
Applicant: Mark Dumolien & Carolyn Brown
Council Action: Continued
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-1-0 (Hoertkorn opposed)

Address: 32 Shady Lane
Applicant: John Kilroy, Jr.
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

CHICKEN NUGGETS



Raising chickens has become popular in Ross. No permit is required for keeping chickens. However, the

Town regulates where they may be kept and the location of chicken coop structures. Any



chicken cage or coop must meet Town development regulations, including setback and lot coverage requirements. Town Council approval of a setback variance is required prior to placing any structure within a setback area. It is unlawful to keep chickens within fifty feet of a neighbor's residence or within fifty feet of any street or other public place. Chicken enclosures must be kept clean and free from offensive odors. See Town of Ross Municipal Code [Chapter 8.16](#) for more information.

FREQUENT CODE VIOLATIONS



Patios and Play Structures

Patios are defined as "structures" in the Town zoning code. Patios are required to meet setback regulations, even if they are on-grade and made of a porous surface such as decomposed granite or gravel. Temporary play structures, including trampolines, are also required to meet Town zoning regulations. Trampolines are not permitted in a setback without prior approval of a variance or a Minor Exception. Contact the planning department for more information.

Working without a permit

It doesn't pay to do work without a permit. Town Council application fees are tripled for after-the-fact applications. Fees are not refunded if the application is not approved. If a building permit is required, the Town charges a penalty equal to 20% of the value of the project as a penalty for working without a permit (not just 20% of the building permit application fee). In addition, the Town may impose administrative penalties starting at \$250 per day for building code violations. When in doubt, please contact the town planning or building department prior to starting work.



PUBLIC SAFETY



Winship Area Thefts Update

Colin McLorg, a 31 year old San Anselmo resident, surrendered in October on an arrest warrant issued for several crimes in the Winship area that occurred earlier this year. Last week, McLorg pled guilty to several offenses under a plea agreement with the District Attorney's Office. A sentencing date has not yet been set. The successful resolution of this case came about due in large part to a quick thinking resident snapping a photo of a suspicious person, and neighborhood sharing of information.

Crime Mapping

The Department has established an online Crime Mapping feature. This feature uses data from our records management system, calls for service, and on-view activity. The mapping feature allows residents to view activity in various parts of town. We have some specific types of incidents available for public view. Note that some types of incidents are not made available to the public due to investigative needs or privacy concerns. You can access this feature on the Police Department page of the Town's website or by clicking [here](#).

Red Zone Parking

There have been complaints about people parking in the red zone in front of the Ross School. The red zone is there to provide access to the fire hydrants for the school. The Police Department has been warning drivers not to park in this space. Dropping off in this spot does not pose a problem, as drivers can pull away as needed. Please do not park in the red zone as we will begin citing violations.

WANTED: CHIEF OF PROTOCOL

Do you enjoy planning, organizing, and overseeing large-scale community events? If so, we would love to hear from you. The Town is seeking a new Chief of Protocol as Liz Welsh, who has been serving in this position, is stepping down in December. This volunteer position is appointed by the Council and typically serves a two-year term. Its main directive is to coordinate and oversee the Town's community events, which currently consist of the 4th of July and the annual Town Dinner. If you would like to be considered for this position, please submit a letter of interest to the Town Council highlighting your qualifications. Submit either by email to llopez@townofross.org, or via mail to Town of Ross, P.O. Box 320, Ross, CA 94957. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, December 4th. The Council will appoint a new Chief of Protocol at the December 12th Council meeting. If you have any questions regarding the position, contact Linda Lopez at 453-1453 x105.

PUBLIC WORKS



Winter is almost here and the rain is coming. It is the homeowners' responsibility to keep all waterways, drainage ditches and culverts on their property and in their right of ways clean and clear so the water can pass over and through properly. You must maintain the area of right-

of-way in front of your property to the edge of the roadway. Please keep the sidewalk or walking path clear of leaves and debris that may enter our waterways. Remove leaves and weeds from ditches and along the edge of the roadway, they are a major problem in the winter and can clog culverts and cause local flooding.

ARE YOU COVERED?

On January 1st, Californians will be able to obtain affordable healthcare coverage through Covered California, and you can start shopping for it now. Go to www.coveredca.com to learn more about your health insurance options and enrollment information.



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

NOVEMBER

Nov 11	—	—	Town Hall offices closed for Veterans Day
Nov 14	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 18	2:00	pm	Community Protection Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 19	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting
Nov 21	6:00	pm	Special Council Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 28-29	—	—	Town Hall offices closed for Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

Dec 6	4:30	pm	Holiday Tree Lighting, Ross Common
Dec 12	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 14	9:00-4:00		Tour de Noel, St. John's Episcopal Church
Dec 17	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (tentative)
Dec 23-27	—	—	Town Hall Offices Holiday Closure

JANUARY

Jan 1	—	—	Town Hall offices closed for New Year's
Jan 9	6:00	pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 20	—	—	Town Hall offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
Jan 21	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting

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