

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 | Issue 9 | October 2013

### Mayor's Corner



Beach Kuhl

Recent events have once again shown how the involvement and attitudes of our residents contribute to making the Town a place we all enjoy.

In one example, the town dinner, seemingly destined for abandonment this year, was rescued by a last-minute effort by Mayor Pro Tem Elizabeth Brekhus and a volunteer committee who recognized its importance. In addition to tables, chairs, tablecloths and other equipment, they arranged entertainment for the younger set and music for the adults. The entry gates were manned by Ross School students and volunteers. And Town Staff including the Town Clerk and Superintendent of Public Works provided administrative and logistical support. Marin

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- 3. Planning
- 3. Ross Telephone Directory
- 3. Halloween Festivities
- 4. ZeroWasteMarin
- 4. Public Safety
- 4. Pavement Mgmt Project Award
- 5. Calendar

### Council Chambers Gets Wired



The long anticipated audio sound system in Town Hall made its debut at the October 10th Council meeting, marking the first time Town Hall will have amplification for its Council meetings. The meetings will now be recorded digitally and the audio file of the meeting, will be available to listen to the day after the Council meeting on the Town's website Council Minutes page. Funding in part for this upgrade was due to the Ross Property Owners' Association, who graciously donated \$10,000 toward the audio system. Thank you again RPOA!

### Ross Town Dinner Shines Again

It was the dinner that almost didn't happen... until the last minute when a volunteer committee spearheaded by Mayor Pro Tempore Elizabeth Brekhus stepped forward to organize the event. The annual Ross Town Dinner, now in its 8th year, draws 500+ Ross community members each year to dine outside (potluck style) with their neighbors.



This year, the Marin Art & Garden Center generously donated their venue for the event and by all accounts the new location worked splendidly. An estimated 556 were in attendance. A big thanks to the Marin Art & Garden Center for allowing the Town to hold the event there -

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## Mayor's Corner - continued from page 1

Art and Garden Center made its beautiful facilities available and donations insured that no town funds were needed. The evening was a resounding success, providing the 500 or so attendees to visit with neighbors and fellow residents who we don't otherwise see often enough. Thanks to all who made it possible.

Other examples occurred at the Town Council's September meeting: in one planning item, the applicants and neighbors announced that they had agreed upon a resolution of their differences; in another, neighbors worked with the Council to work out a mechanism for resolving a disagreement over landscaping issues by a neutral professional. In a third example, extensive expression of views by residents of Bolinas Avenue helped the Council reach a compromise solution on the number of medians, balancing public safety with resident street access.

Thanks are due our Town Clerk, Linda Lopez for her work in continuing to upgrade the usefulness of The Morning After and also to Jennifer Leathers for maintaining the appearance of our roads by seeing to the watering of our street trees.

Looking ahead, Liz Welsh has served and continues to serve us as chief of protocol, but her term expires at the end of the year. Others who would like to succeed Liz in this challenging position should let us know of their interest.

Finally, a reminder that the Council will hold a planning workshop beginning at 8:30 a.m. on October 22nd in the Multi-purpose room of the Marin Art and Garden Center. We expect discussions on the Town's financial future, administration of recreation programs and planning issues, among other topics. Setting a course on such issues is significantly enhanced by resident input, so we hope many will attend. ■

## Ross Town Dinner Shines Again *continued from page 1*

we greatly appreciate it! Thanks to everyone who pitched in and cleaned up at the end of the evening.

Special thanks to the many volunteers who helped make this event possible: Miranda Abrams, Sandy Aley, Jill Baker, Jack Berkowitz, Nadia Berkowitz, Samantha Bohan, Olivia Brekhus-Lavinsky, Kaia Burkett, Frank Burkhart, Luc Burkhart, Will Burkhart, Jennifer Coan, Lillian Coan, Ian Converse, Coby Deitch, Audrey Gaither, Stanley Gaither, Dane Goodman, Patricia Goodman, Jacob Grujic, Mette Hardie, Marianne Jacobson, Matthew Kenney, Nico Kenney, Elise LaMarre, Lynn Langford, Jennifer Maxwell, Emily Meyer, Margot Moore, Alexa Price, Paris Royo and Royoco Construction, Elaina Sherman, Julie Stoll and Lola Torressi. Finally, a very special thank you to Elizabeth Brekhus for taking on the town dinner, organizing and overseeing all of the many details that an event of this magnitude requires, and making it a very special event! ■ *(Photos courtesy of Kimberly Bakker.)*



## PLANNING



*Elise Semonian*

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the October Council meeting. For more information on each planning application, click [here](#). The minutes of this meeting will be available on the website at [www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org) after approval at the November 2013 Council meeting.

**Address: 179 Lagunitas Road**

**Applicant: Gardenia L.P.**

**Council Action: Approved design of residence only, single story garage design to return for review**

**Vote (for/against/abstain):**

**Address: 34 Poplar Avenue**

**Applicant: Dante & Mouna Ghilotti**

**Council Action: Continued**

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

**Address: 43 Shady Lane**

**Applicant: Seth & Angie Taube**

**Council Action: Approved**

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

## Ross Community Telephone Directory



The Ross Recreation Auxiliary will be once again producing the Ross Community Telephone Directory this year, for distribution in late Spring 2014.

Please check your post office box in the next few days for our mailer (listings form) with details on how to include your family in the directory and on how to purchase copies of the directory.

There are a couple items of special note. First, to ensure timely delivery of the directory, please return your listings form as soon as possible. Listings forms are due by November 15, 2013 to guarantee inclusion in the directory. Second, please note that advance purchase is required, as we cannot otherwise guarantee availability. Your listings form includes a section for placing your order.

Finally, if you would like to advertise your local business in the directory, or have any questions, please email [rossrecaux@gmail.com](mailto:rossrecaux@gmail.com).

## HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES

### WINDOW PAINTING OCTOBER 23rd



The 6th Annual Ross Halloween Window Painting Event will be held on October 23rd from 3:30-6:30pm in downtown Ross. All painting supplies and paint will be provided. All you have to do is show up with your creativity on!

Any questions, please contact Bonnie Bibas at 239-287-1414.

### HALLOWEEN NIGHT SHADY LANE ROAD CLOSURE

A portion of Shady Lane (from Bolinas Avenue to Norwood Avenue) will be closed from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 31st for the annual trick or treaters.





# ZERØ WASTE MARIN

Ross Residents should check out [ZeroWasteMarin.org](http://ZeroWasteMarin.org) for general tips on how residents in Marin can help protect the environment and save money.



**Food & Yard Waste Composting** - It's easy to recycle food and yard waste. Place yard trimmings, food-soiled paper such as pizza boxes and used coffee cups and grounds, eggshells, etc., in your green cart. The contents of your cart are sent to a composting facility where they are turned into

rich soil that can be used to help grow food.

**Smart Shopping** - Before you head off to the grocery store, make sure to check your pantry and fridge to avoid buying food you already have. Be sure to also store food properly to reduce the amount of food that goes to waste.

**Reusable Bags** - Bring your own reusable shopping bag on your next trip to the grocery store. Simple actions like reusing your shopping bags keeps plastic out of our landfill.

**Household Hazardous Waste** - Residents can drop off household hazardous waste as no cost at Marin Sanitary at 565 Jacoby Street in San Rafael. Bring proof of residency, and simply drive through and drop off your materials. For more information on which materials are accepted go to [www.marinhhw.com](http://www.marinhhw.com).



## Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program Construction Alert

Effective June 30, 2015, all construction projects subject to a Building or Grading Permit that disturb the soil must develop and implement an approved Erosion and Sediment Control Plan to protect local creeks. The new requirements apply to new and existing permitted projects. For more information visit [www.mcstopp.org](http://www.mcstopp.org).

## PUBLIC SAFETY



The Police Department will soon be rolling out a crime mapping program for residents to view crime incidents that have been reported. The system uses information from our records management system to provide a visual representation that can be viewed online. Residents can access this from a link that will be on the website.

We are currently building the data tables for our mapping system. We will let you know via email when our product goes live in the next few weeks. You can check out the vendor website to see examples of what it will look like at <http://crimegraphics.com/>.

## PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROJECT CONTRACT AWARDED



The Council awarded the construction contract for the Pavement Management Project to W.K. McLellan Company, the lowest responsive bidder at 137,545. Two bids were received and opened on October 3rd.

A report completed by Harris & Associates in 2012 provided a pavement condition index (PCI) for all streets in Ross and recommended a pavement improvement program. The Town has approximately 11.05 miles of paved streets, divided into 74 pavement management segments. The Town's overall PCI as of 2010 was 74 on a 100 point scale with 100 being a new street. Based on the report's findings and working with Moe Engineering, staff is recommending work be done on Winship Avenue, the intersection of Ames and Shady Lane, Redwood Avenue and a section of Canyon Road.

## 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

### OCTOBER

Oct 3	8:00 am	Special Council Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 4	5:00 pm	Ross Town Dinner, Marin Art & Garden Center
Oct 10	6:00 pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 18, 19, 20		Ross Rummage Sale, Ross School Multipurpose Room
Oct 21	1:30 pm	Finance Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 22	8:30 am	Special Council Meeting - Annual Strategy Workshop Marin Art & Garden Center (MAGC), Multipurpose Room
Oct 23	3:30 pm	Halloween Window Painting, Downtown Ross (see page 3 for details)
Oct 31	5:00 pm	Halloween - Shady Lane Road Closure (see page 3 for details)

### NOVEMBER

Nov 11	— —	Town Hall offices closed for Veterans Day
Nov 14	6:00 pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 19	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (tentative)
Nov 28-29	— —	Town Hall offices closed for Thanksgiving

### DECEMBER

Dec 12	6:00 pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 24-25	— —	Town Hall offices closed for the Christmas holiday

### RECURRING EVENTS

Tuesdays thru October      Marin Community Farm Stand, 11:00-7:00 pm, MAGC

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