

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Katie Hoertkorn

At tonight's Council meeting, we discussed some of the proposed solutions to our recent thefts, which, for now, may have abated. The Council approved the implementation of two new measures to begin as soon as possible. Also, with the reduction in burglaries, it appears that the vigilance of the residents and Police identifying several suspects may have produced real results. When some of the potential solutions are implemented and with your continued vigilance, our goal of keeping Ross much safer may be at hand. On the issue of safety, periodically a street light will burn out. Our street lights are maintained and lights are replaced by PG&E. If you see a light burned out, report the outage to Public Works at 415-453-1453 ext. 106, or you

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Winship Bridge Public Outreach Meeting



A meeting was held to elicit input from the Town Council and public regarding the Winship Avenue Bridge Replacement project. Both the consultants, Quincy Engineering, and staff, were available to answer questions and discuss the bridge project. The Council and the public were given the opportunity to view the bridge site along with staff and consultants prior to the meeting.

Background: Every two years Caltrans performs inspections of Ross's six bridges and prepares a Bridge Inspection Report (BIR) for each bridge. The purpose of the inspections are to inventory the bridges and examine and assess the physical and functional condition, in addition to the adequacy of the current conditions of the bridges. Winship Bridge has had a Sufficiency Rating of just over 50 (out of 100 in the latest Structure Inventory and Appraisal Report), and a status of "Functionally Obsolete" (due to its substandard deck geometry) since at least 2007.

The Town contracted with California Infrastructure Consultancy (CIC) in May 2012 to prepare a report to identify preliminary engineering/design assessments for repairs, maintenance, and/or rehabilitation of five bridges (Glenwood Avenue, Norwood Avenue, Shady Lane, Winship Avenue, and Sir Francis Drake Boulevard). The CIC report, with input from Caltrans, concluded that the Winship Avenue bridge's current structural conditions were too significant to be handled under the preventative maintenance program, and that replacement rather than rehabilitation was determined for the bridge based on the following factors:

- Poor structural condition (the bridge is more than 100 years old and is beyond the expected service life of 75 years) and the bridge could be at risk of collapse or failure if there is a significant seismic or flood event;
- Will not pass the design flood event (100 year flow);
- Identified by Caltrans as Functionally Obsolete;
- Does not meet current design standards for ADA requirements for pedestrian pathway;
- Is on the Marin County Flood Control priority list for replacement;

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may email PG&E directly at streetlighttrouble@pge.com. They will need to know the K-number listed on the street pole and the location of the pole. PG&E will try to replace the bulb within a week.

Another issue to be discussed is the replacement of the charming 1909 Winship Bridge. The possible replacement is due to several factors: the obsolescence of the bridge itself and structural issues, and its possible impediment to the flow of water. We are at the beginning of a three year process to do a study, environmental review, and bridge design. If we proceed with the bridge, construction itself would be six months. The first public meeting this past Tuesday, February 9th, was for input; additional meetings will be held. Please direct any concerns or issues regarding the bridge to John Moe at publicworks@townofross.org.



The Council's annual strategic workshop is this Friday, February 12th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Marin Art & Garden Center. We encourage and welcome your participation.

I will be in front of the Ross Post Office, March 9th from 1:15-2:15 p.m., just before next month's Council meeting. I look forward to hearing any of your concerns or questions, or simply having the opportunity to meet you.

And finally, don't forget the Winter Dinner, one of our Ross traditions, on March 5th. Have a lovely dinner in a pleasant home environment, while reconnecting with some of your neighbors! ■

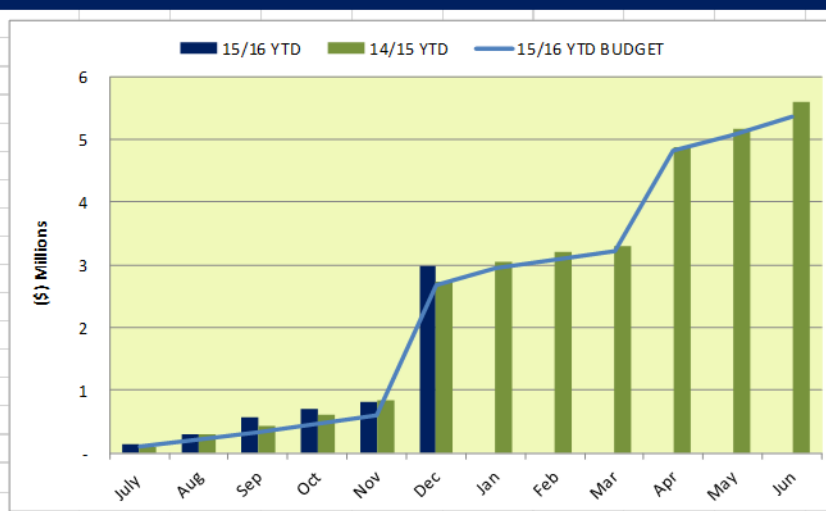
FY 2016 Quarter 2 - Financial Summary Update

The financial report for the second quarter shows operating revenues \$304,000 over budget for the first six months. This is due primarily to increased development service revenue that is associated with a high level of building and planning activity in the first half of the fiscal year. General Fund operating expenses are \$288K over budget for the first six months of the year. This variance was primarily created by the early payoff of the final installment of debt to the County of Marin in the amount of \$189K. The early payoff will reduce the Town's interest expenses by \$22K over the next two years and retired the Marin County TRAN notes originally issued in 2012. In addition, there are higher building and planning costs due to the higher level of development processing.

OPERATING FUND REVENUE vs BUDGET

Graph #1

	15/16 Actual	15/16 Budget	Variance
July	\$ 134,590	\$ 105,988	\$ 28,602
Aug	159,014	113,193	45,821
Sep	281,451	115,273	166,178
Oct	134,957	130,725	4,232
Nov	110,375	129,526	(19,151)
Dec	2,167,708	2,088,849	78,859
Jan	-	262,597	-
Feb	-	143,627	-
Mar	-	118,274	-
Apr	-	1,602,872	-
May	-	254,243	-
Jun	-	306,732	-
Total	\$2,988,095	\$ 5,371,899	\$ 304,541



PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the February Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the [February 11th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be available on this page after adoption by the Council at the March Council meeting.

Address: 77 Bolinas Avenue
Applicant: Matthew & Pamela Morton
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 38 Fernhill Avenue
Applicant: Cypress Trust
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 198 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: Jamie O'Hara & Cynthia Weldon
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-2-0 (Brekhus/
Robbins opposed)

Address: 39 Fernhill Avenue
Applicant: The Branson School
Council Action: Approved with conditions
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-1-0 (Brekhus
opposed)

Winship Bridge Meeting

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- Widening an earth-filled arch bridge wouldn't be possible at this location due to the opening required within the flood way.

Next Steps: The next steps for the project include implementing input received from the February 9th public outreach meeting, continuing to develop and refine project details, and preparing the environmental technical studies leading to an approved document. We are at the beginning of a three-year process with several more opportunities for community input. Another public outreach meeting is planned to be held later this year. Once environmental clearance of a project alternative is completed, the design team would complete final contract documents enabling the project to be advertised, a construction contractor selected, and the project built. ■

PUBLIC SAFETY



The Council discussed the recent crime activity and asked the Police Department to look into crime reduction strategies. The Police Department is implementing two new programs to help address investigation of crime and reducing the opportunity for criminal activity. The Police Department is continuing research into video surveillance systems as a potential strategy.

These new programs are:

- Home Security Video System Registration
- Neighborhood Watch Program

Home Security Video System Registration

Another deterrent in addressing crime is to register your home security video system with the Ross Police Department. Many residents have home security video systems already installed. As crimes occur nearby, a home video system may capture information that can help solve a crime. Knowing which homes have security video can help speed up Police investigations. If your home security system is registered with the Police Department and a crime occurs in your neighborhood, the Police may contact you and request footage from your system. In doing so, the Police will have a helpful tool readily available to aid in the arrest and prosecution of the criminals involved. If you would like to register your security system, please complete the **Registration Form** on the Town's website. Any questions, please contact Chief Masterson at emasterson@townofross.org.

Neighborhood Watch Program

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that enlists the active participation of residents in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime, solve problems, and improve the quality of life in your area. You will get to know your neighbors and learn how to:

- Recognize and report crimes and suspicious activities;
- Protect yourself, your family, and your property;
- Protect your neighbor's family and property; and
- Identify crime and disorder problems in your area and work with police personnel to solve them.

Talk to your neighbors and see if there's an interest in forming a group in your area. If there is, contact Chief Masterson at emasterson@townofross.org, and the Police Department will help provide you with direction in organizing your group. ■





Ross Recreation's winter 2016 event for Middle School students:

Ski Trip to Sierra @ Tahoe!



6-8th Graders!

Join us for a fun-filled day on the slopes!
Ross Recreation is offering an ALL - INCLUSIVE day trip to Sierra At Tahoe!

Sunday February 28th, 2016

\$182 - 258 per person

includes: bus ride, lift ticket, (lessons and rentals if needed) breakfast, lunch, dinner, Après ski party with snacks and music and a movie on the way home.

Don't miss out!

register online: www.rossrecreation.org

Spring programs begin in early March. The Spring offerings include youth sports programs such as golf, tennis and lacrosse. Enrichment programs include Lego engineering, academic chess, art and more. To register for programs please visit our website at www.rossrecreation.org.



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Ross Auxiliary Winter Dinner - March 5th



The event takes place across 15 spectacular homes located in the Ross community. It includes an intimate Mardi Gras inspired gourmet dinner created by the chef and owner of Marche Aux Fleurs restaurant, followed by an after party for all dinner attendees in Ross. It is a fantastic, old-fashioned way to get to know your neighbors and raise money for Pixie Park at the same time!

Winter Dinner Schedule

- 4:30pm:** Dinner assignment pick-up at Ross Post Office
- 5-7:00pm:** Dinner at private homes in the community
- 7-10:00pm:** Cocktail and dessert reception, silent auction & music at 34 Shady Lane, Ross

Tickets are \$150/person and can be purchased at: <https://squareup.com/store/winter-dinner>.

All proceeds go toward the renovation of Pixie Park, the playground located in the Marin Art and Garden Center. It is in need of structural upgrades to make it safer and more enjoyable for our little ones. Because Ross Auxiliary is working in alignment with MAGC a 501(c)3, all donations are fully tax deductible.

Questions: contact Sarah Atwood, Ross Auxiliary, at sarahatwood07@gmail.com or 917-816-1069.

ADR Members Reappointed

The Council reappointed Mark Fritts and Jim Kemp to the Advisory Design Review Group (ADR) for an additional two-year term to expire in February 2018. Both Mr. Fritts and Mr. Kemp are architects and have served on ADR since its inception in 2008, as design professional members. The Advisory Design Review Group is a volunteer committee appointed by the Council, that provides professional review of design-related projects, enabling applicants to receive helpful advice early in the review process as well as the opportunity for neighbor input and feedback.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2016

Feb 9	7:00	pm	Special Council Meeting - Winship Bridge Discussion, Town Hall
Feb 11	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Feb 12	9:00	am	Special Council Meeting Annual Strategic Workshop, MAGC, Room E120
Feb 15	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Presidents Day
Feb 15-Mar 11	--	--	Election filing period for Candidates for Town Council
Feb 22	10:15	am	Finance Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Feb 23	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

MARCH 2016

Mar 8	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town hall
Mar 10	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 11	--	--	Election filing period deadline (for Candidates and Incumbents)
Mar 16	--	--	Election filing period extended if Incumbents do not file
Mar 22	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

APRIL 2016

Apr 14	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Apr 26	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Apr 27	9:00	am	Special Council Meeting Annual Budget Workshop, MAGC

CONTACT US

Administration	415.453.1453 x105	Public Works	415.453.1453 x106
Building	415.453.1453 x106	Recreation	415.453.6020
Planning	415.453.1453 x121	Ross Valley Fire	415.258.4686
Police	415.453.1453, Option 2	Town Manager	415.453.1453 x107

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