

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 10 | Issue 6 | June 2016

Mayor's Corner



Katie Hoertkorn

Congratulations to our twenty-three 8th grade Ross School graduates! We all wish them well as they reach for new academic challenges. The Ross bear even wore a graduation hat in their honor (thanks RPOA!).

The June Council meeting will be Carla Small's last meeting after 6 years as a Mayor and Council member. Carla's contributions to Ross are enormous; we will celebrate those accomplishments before the next Council meeting, July 14th, at 5:00 p.m. The whole town is welcome.

At the same time we are pleased to welcome back former Council member, Rupert Russell, who has graciously agreed to serve out the remaining 2 years of

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Council Vacancy Filled

The Council appointed P. Rupert Russell to fill the two-year remaining term of outgoing Council Member Carla Small, who is resigning from her position on June 30, 2016.

Mr. Russell served on the Council from 2010 to 2014. He has recent experience and knowledge of the Town and Council proceedings and can thus quickly step into the role as a Council Member, which is beneficial to the Town and community. He will begin his term on July 1, 2016 and serve until June 30, 2018. ■



P. Rupert Russell

Ross 4th of July Celebration & Picnic



Come and join the fun at the Town of Ross 4th of July celebration on Monday, July 4th. The parade kicks off the celebration at 11:00 a.m. A picnic in Ross Commons follows the parade. Enjoy music, games and much more!

Fried chicken lunches will be provided by Robert Meyer and

available on a pre-order basis. You may pre-order your chicken lunch beginning June 15th at www.rossrecreation.org, or in person at the Recreation Department. Hot dogs provided by Let's be Frank will also be available for purchase at the picnic site located at Ross Commons.



Join the Parade

If you are interested in volunteering or participating in the parade, please contact rossrec@rossrecreation.org.



Don't miss out on this beloved annual event!

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Carla's term. Rupert's extensive experience with and knowledge of Ross Town challenges means he will be up to speed in short order.

The budget was presented last night for adoption, it is both far reaching and realistic, but prudent (as we anticipate a small surplus). Additionally, we are aggressively paying down our CALPERS debt to minimize future CALPERS retirement obligation costs. We will also be investing in our community through some needed capital improvements and anticipated maintenance issues. So far, we have applied for, and received, several grants to help defray some of these expenditures. Finally, of note, we continue to have the smallest municipal staff in the County.

Council will also discuss and vote on the extension of the Safety Tax measure to be placed on the ballot in November. Since our principal source of revenue is a small percentage of our Town's property tax payments (less than 19%), and since we lack any meaningful sales tax and do not have utility users or hotel/motel taxes, we need to continue to depend upon the Safety Tax measure to fund full time police and fire protection.

Last week the Marin IJ ran an article regarding our dispute with Gary Broad, a former Town employee, relating to CALPERS retirement benefits. Mr. Broad contends that the time the Town hired him as a part-time consultant qualifies him for extended retirement benefits. As the article stated, CALPERS ruled in his favor and the Town has appealed that ruling. The appeal is set for September 19th. The ultimate cost to the Town, if any, is unknown at this time. ■

Ballot Language Approved for November 2016 Parcel Tax

The Public Safety Tax measure is scheduled to be placed on the November 8, 2016 ballot. The tax, which was approved by Ross voters in November 2012, currently raises approximately \$774,000, towards the cost of public safety services. The Town has relied on the tax for many years to support the operations and capital needs of the community. Without it, the Town would have to reduce expenses by \$500,000 to \$800,000 per year which would cause service level declines.

At the April and May Council meetings, the Council discussed the upcoming measure and directed staff to bring back a Resolution and Ordinance related to placing the Public Safety Tax on the November 8, 2016 election for the voters to decide on the measure. At the June meeting, the Council approved the following ballot language for the Public Safety tax:

Shall the voters of the Town of Ross adopt an ordinance to reauthorize from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2025, the annual special tax for maintaining public safety services at a rate of \$970 per dwelling unit for single family residences and \$970 per parcel for all

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Mayor & Mayor Pro Tempore Appointed



Katie Hoertkorn
Mayor

The Council reappointed Katie Hoertkorn to serve a second term as Mayor, and Elizabeth Robbins to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore beginning with the July Council meeting. Each year the Council elects to appoint a new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. Typically, the Mayor Pro Tem moves to the Mayor position the following year. With the departure of Council Member Carla Small on June 30th, the normal progression was modified.



Elizabeth Robbins
Mayor Pro Tem

The current Council terms are as follows:

- Elizabeth Brekhuis (2016-2020) 2nd Term
- Katie Hoertkorn (2016-2020) 2nd Term
- Beach Kuhl (2016-2020) 2nd Term
- Elizabeth Robbins (2014-2018)
- Rupert Russell (July 2016-June 2018)

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the June Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the [June 14th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be available on this page after adoption by the Council at the July Council meeting.

Address: 47 Poplar Avenue
Applicant: Mark & Sonya Manning
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-2-0 (Hoertkorn, Small opposed)

Address: 87 Shady Lane
Applicant: Erik & Laurie Young
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-0 (Brekhus, Small recused)

Address: 74 Baywood Avenue
Applicant: Charles & Renee Sheppard
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 648 Goodhill Road
Applicant: Ken & Kerry Keefe
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 187 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: James & Helen Hobbs
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-0 (Hoertkorn recused)

You're Invited....

The Marin County Commission on Aging is hosting the following meeting open to the public:

End of Life Options & Implications
Thursday, July 7, 2016, 10:00-11:00 am
Temple Rodef Shalom
170 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael

With the recent passage of the California End of Life Options Act, this presentation will focus on both legal policy and practicalities of discussing and coming to terms with one's mortality.

6 Redwood House Discussed



The Council considered various options for the Town-owned property at 6 Redwood Drive, that was significantly damaged by fire in February 2015. The house is currently part of

the 4.36 acre parcel that is described as Ross Common Town Park on the zoning map. The building is approximately 925 square feet and is separated from the rest of the Ross Common with a fence and heavy vegetation. The Town has historically rented the house for many years. The Council had asked staff to provide options to consider for the future use of the Town-owned building, which has remained boarded up since the fire.

After much discussion, the Council directed staff to further explore the option of repairing the house and renting it, and the option of demolishing the house and converting the land to be a part of the Ross Common Park.

Ross School Graduation June 9, 2016

Congratulations to the 23 Ross School 8th grade graduates! They are: Elliott Abrams, Kallen Aley, Eleanor Boes, Olivia Brekhus-Lavinsky, Lucas Burkhart, Will Burkhart, Skyler Carey, Lillian Coan, Coby Deitch, Audrey Dickinson, Stanley Gaither, Keenan Goldin, Jacob Grujic, Emma Haggett, Abigail Hjelmstad, Colette Jantze, Nicholas Kenney, Isabella Marrocco, Scott "Deuce" McWhorter, Jordan Price, Paris Royo III, Elaina Sherman and Lola Torresi.



The following Awards were presented:

Scholarship: Audrey Dickinson & Abby Hjelmstad
Citizen (Ross Police Assn): Kallen Aley & Olivia Brekhus-Lavinsky
Community Service: Emma Haggett
Dedication and Perseverance: Colette Jantze
Spirit: Eleanor Boes
Trustee: Abby Hjelmstad

Olivia Brekhus-Lavinsky and Abby Hjelmstad were chosen to give the class speech.



Ballot Language Approved for Parcel Tax

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other uses, with an annual cost of living adjustment on both, providing about \$810,000 annually, and increasing the Town's appropriations limit by the amount of the special tax proceeds?



The ballot measure requires two-thirds voter approval in order to pass. If the measure passes in November 2016, there is a requirement that the voters would decide by majority vote every four years whether the "appropriation limit" (Article XIII B) should be approved as this vote is required by the State Constitution. The vote on the appropriations limit gives the public the right to weigh in and approve the collection and expenditure of these revenues. If the appropriations limit is not approved by the voters, the tax revenues cannot be spent. ■

2016 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The Marin Art & Garden Center (MAGC) free summer concert series begins Thursday, June 23rd, and continues every Thursday through August 11, 2016 from 5:00-7:00 pm. Enjoy all types of music from Bluegrass, Jazz, Swing, Folk, and New Orleans funk. Each concert offers picnic dinners, beer, and wine available for purchase.



Beginning this year, MAGC is offering VIP reserved table seating for business sponsors (\$500) and small groups (\$250). The price includes complimentary meals. Visit MAGC's website at <http://magc.org/2016-concert-series/> to reserve a VIP table and for a complete schedule of bands and caterers. All proceeds benefit the Marin Art & Garden Center.

RECREATION NEWS

The Ross Recreation spring program concluded on June 4th with an end of the season youth lacrosse jamboree. Our spring programs were conducted at Bacich and Ross schools, in addition to Ross Commons.



Summer activities begin on Monday, June 13th. Registration is open and programs are filling fast. Top Gun Sports Camp, Adventure Camp, Sporty Girls and Marin Explorers are just a few of the many choices this year.

Various field trips are offered as part of the camp programs. Destinations include College of Marin pool, A's and Giants games, Great America, Water world, Stinson Beach, Sonoma ropes course, California Academy of Science and many more.

New offerings scheduled for early August include cooking, mountain biking, fishing and middle school girl's basketball.



Don't miss out on these popular programs and register early! Visit www.rossrecreation.org to register.

**Get Your Summer On at
Ross Recreation!**

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 2016

- June 14* 6:30 pm Council Meeting, Town Hall (**note date/time change*)
- June 28 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

JULY 2016

- July 4 -- -- Town Hall offices closed for Independence Day
- July 4 11:00 am Ross 4th of July Celebration, Ross Common
- July 14 5:00 pm Reception for Council Member Carla Small, Town Hall
- July 14 6:00 pm Council Meeting, Town Hall
- July 26 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

AUGUST 2016

- August 11 6:00 pm Council Meeting, Town Hall
- August 23 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

RECURRING EVENTS

- Thursdays, June - October Ross Farm Stand, 11:30 am - 7:30 pm, Ross Common
- Thursdays Jun 23-Aug 11 Marin Art & Garden Center Free Summer Concert Series, 5:00-7:00 pm

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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Visit us at www.townofross.org



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