

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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### Mayor's Corner



*Katie Hoertkorn*

As I have noted many times in my Mayor's Report, Ross is a unique, charming, small town that has attracted devoted residents for generations. As I reread the history of our region, and particularly of the Town of Ross which emerged in 1908, I am reminded how much has stayed the same. By the 1930s, the Town had 1,800 residents, and 86 years later we are at 2,500 residents. Our Post Office was established in 1887, as well as Fire and Police Departments in 1910. Thank you to all of you who supported Measure K. Thanks to its vote of over 75%, these preliminary results indicate we have secured both our Fire and Police protection for the next eight years, a history of 108 years for our Police and Fire of non-stop service! Thank you to Elizabeth Robbins for

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### Rehabilitation of Three Bear Hut

As stated in the Town's General Plan, the architectural and environmental ambiance that attracted caring residents to Ross since the Town's incorporation have been preserved through a tradition of stewardship that has guided the decisions of the Town Council. Natalie Coffin Greene Park is among the resources that



provide cultural, educational and recreational opportunities. The Park, which includes Three Bear Hut, has historically been and continues to be a great place to explore the outdoors as well as relax and picnic. As a result of being in the weather elements for approximately 80 years with little maintenance, Three Bear Hut is deteriorating and in need of repair.

As part of the Town's due diligence in assessing the existing structure, the Town hired Christopher VerPlanck, an architectural historian, to prepare a Historic Resource Evaluation Report (HRER), to determine the historical significance of the structure. The HRER for Three Bear Hut identified the structure as being historically significant and eligible for listing in the California Register.

Three Bear Hut was known as the Phoenix Lake Picnic Ground, one of three picnic grounds constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) during the Depression circa 1935-1936 on Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) lands. The Three Bear Hut is one of the two remaining CCC related structures in Marin County and the only "rock-type" shelter in Marin County. The other CCC structure is larger, is a different prototype than the Three Bear Hut, and is located at Lake Lagunitas.

In 1967, using a bequest from A. Crawford Greene, the Town of Ross purchased the Phoenix Lake Picnic Ground, a 25-acre site, from the MMWD. Due to the historical significance of the Three Bear Hut, any rehabilitation of the structure that occurs must comply with the Secretary of the Interior Standards Treatment of Historical Properties. As such, the Town is seeking to hire a qualified historical architect to prepare an existing conditions assessment report, repair plan, general cost

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running the campaign. I would like to thank RPOA for their constant vigilance with the Post Office. Just a reminder to please pick up your mail at the post office as often as possible. As we all know, many of the packages we order on line are now delivered through the Post Office. If the packages and mail are not picked up regularly, the logistics of sorting the mail become increasingly difficult and slow down our deliveries. Besides frequent pick up, please remember to notify the post office when you are on vacation so that they know to hold your mail. Mail that is not picked up can be returned to the sender. Also, as we all know, you cannot use Post Offices Box addresses for packages from some on-line sites or financial institutions. The easiest remedy is to write your physical address followed by a slash, then a number sign and then the number of your post office box. For example: 1213 Garden Lane/#1050; Alternatively, if a second address line is available, having "P.O. Box 1050" or "#1050" on the line below the address line works as well. For anyone who has experienced delivery issues with their mail, the Post Office personnel, under Roosevelt Sergeant III, are more than willing to help, just ask. RPOA will be sending out more information.



Finally, the Winter Sing Along/Tree Lighting Ceremony, hosted by the Ross Auxiliary, will be Sunday, December 4th beginning at 4:30 pm. The setup will be the same as last year with the added component of a Toy Drive sponsored by Toys for Tots. Please bring a toy! This is a lovely community tradition, and we thank Ross Auxiliary for all their wonderful efforts. The Branson School has also invited the entire Town to their Open House on December 4th.

Happy Thanksgiving! ■

### Preliminary Election Results For Measure K



With last Tuesday's election over, here are preliminary results on the vote for Measure K (Public Safety Tax):

675 Yes votes (78.13%); 189 No votes (21.88%)  
25 Voters who chose not to vote on this issue

Please note these numbers do not include the absentee ballots received one or two days before the election as well as the absentee ballots turned in at the polls. These ballots are still being counted and the Marin County Elections/Registrar of Voters has until December 6, 2016 to certify the official results. The Registrar of Voters will continue to update their website every Friday at (<http://www.marincounty.org/depts/rv/election-info/currentresults>) until all the ballots are counted. Since this Friday is a holiday (Veterans Day), the next update will take place Monday, November 14th.

Generally, the trend set with poll voting and earlier absentee ballots received tend to reflect the outcome of the election.

### Three Bear Hut Rehabilitation

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estimate, and biddable construction documents for the rehabilitation of Three Bear Hut.



Once the structural assessment and cost estimate has been completed, the Town staff will determine a financing strategy for funding the rehabilitation of Three Bear Hut, as well as associated site improvements in Natalie Coffin Greene park, such as improving access to the structure and new picnic tables. A financing strategy will likely include a significant fund raising effort and possibly the pursuit of grant funds. Once the funds are raised, then the Town will utilize the bid documents to hire a contractor who has experience with the rehabilitation of historic structures.

The full staff report on this item is available at: <http://www.townofross.org/towncouncil/page/town-council-meeting-172>. ■

## PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the November Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the November 10th meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be available on this page after adoption by the Council at the December Council meeting.

**Address: 1 El Camino Bueno**  
**Applicant: David Bilsker**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Brekhus recused)**

**Address: 26 Woodside Way**  
**Applicant: Valentin Alexandrov**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Hoertkorn recused)**

**Address: 1 Upper Rd. & 206 Lagunitas Rd.**  
**Applicant: Alan Grujic & Kailey Lewis**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

## Installation of Portable Modular Building

As reported in September, the Council approved a temporary portable modular building to house the Building, Planning and Public Works Department staff, as an interim solution to the Town's office space challenges.

Preparations are currently underway for the arrival of the building which is scheduled to be delivered November 16th. You will see activity around Town Hall during this time as some of the area is cleared to make room for the new building. A large Bay tree and a few small trees and bushes will be removed, and a new ADA ramp for the building will be constructed. It's important to note that during the inspection of the area, the Town Arborist discovered the Bay tree had large pockets of decay in the tree trunks as well as other signs of the tree dying, and thus recommended it be removed. It was not the intent to remove this tree as part of preparing for the modular building until this discovery.

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## Ross School Book Fair



**Get Ready for the Book Fair!**

**Tuesday, November 15 through  
Friday, November 18, 2016**

The Ross School is excited to announce Ya'a Gyasi as the featured speaker for the Friends of the Library author coffee on Friday, November 18! Ya'a Gyasi is the author of the New York Times best-selling book *Homegoing*.



"Two half sisters, Effia and Esi, unknown to each other, are born into two different tribal villages in 18th century Ghana. Effia will be married off to an English colonial, and will live in comfort in the sprawling, palatial rooms of Cape Coast Castle, raising half-caste children who will be sent abroad to be educated in England before returning to the Gold Coast to serve as administrators of the Empire. Her sister, Esi, will be imprisoned beneath Effia in the Castle's women's dungeon, and then shipped off on a boat bound for America, where she will be sold into slavery. Stretching from the tribal wars of Ghana to slavery and Civil War in America, from the coal mines in the north to the Great Migration to the streets of 20th century Harlem, Yaa Gyasi's has written a modern masterpiece, a novel that moves through histories and geographies and--with outstanding economy and force--captures the troubled spirit of our own nation" --School Library Journal (10/01/2016)

You may purchase the book and/or tickets to the event at: <http://rossbearspto.com/Author-Coffee/>.

Book: \$30, Author Coffee ticket and book: \$50

The books will be available to pick up at the Ross School office.



Thank you for sharing your love of reading!





# RECREATION NEWS

The WildCare of Marin nature van returned to the Ross Preschool to give a presentation on native California wildlife. Through sharing knowledge and instructions on how to live peacefully with the animals among us, WildCare promotes a better understanding of the need for protection of wildlife and our remaining open spaces. The interactive presentation provided the students hands on experience through local wildlife exhibits.



The Ross Preschool students, parents and teachers visited a pumpkin patch in Nicasio Valley during Halloween week.



For more information on the Ross Preschool visit the website at [www.therosspreschool.org](http://www.therosspreschool.org).

Registration for the **Ross Recreation winter program** will open the week of **December 5**. The winter offerings will include a new instructional class in robotics where students will learn how to perform program coding and build a Raspberry Pi computer.



Basketball registration is full and practices begin the last week of November. Games will begin in January.

Visit [www.rossrecreation.org](http://www.rossrecreation.org) for program and registration information.

## Installation of Portable Building

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Significant landscaping will be installed to provide adequate screening of the building which will also be painted a darker color to blend in with the landscaping.

The Building, Planning and Public Works Departments provide development services to the Town and frequently interact with each other. Currently these departments are spaced far apart from each other in spatially ineffective and inadequate office space, with Council Chambers serving as temporary office space as well. Locating these departments together will improve the efficiency of service delivery to our customers. The new Public Works Director will be housed in the modular building whereas past Public Works Directors have used the Council Chambers for their office.

If all goes as planned and the weather cooperates, the new offices should be open for business starting Monday, December 5th. ■

## Good Neighbor Reminder

### No Parking

We understand that there are not many parking spots in parts of Town particularly in the daytime when we have construction people, landscapers, house people, visitors, and others that come into Ross. What can we do to help? Related to worker's vehicles – landscapers, house cleaners, etc. – residents to the extent possible should look to have those vehicles park in their driveway so as not to take up the limited public road spaces. Related to construction, the Town Building Department and construction management plans, wherever possible, require as much of the construction traffic vehicles as possible to park on the lots being developed. The Building Inspector will look to make sure that development sites are maximizing their on-site vehicle parking in order to be good neighbors. We realize that parking constraints in Ross do provide challenges in some areas where there is limited available parking. We need to work together to best help the parking situation in neighborhoods.

# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NOVEMBER 2016

Nov 7	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
Nov 10	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 11	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Veterans Day
Nov 15	8:30	am	Recreation Advisory Committee, Recreation Office Community Room
Nov 15-18	8:30	am	Ross School Book Fair <i>(see page 3 for details)</i>
Nov 15	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall <i>(*note new date)</i>
Nov 24-25	--	--	Town Offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday

## DECEMBER 2016

Dec 4	4:30	pm	Winter Sing Tree Lighting Ceremony, Ross Common
Dec 4	4:30	pm	Branson School Holiday Open House, 39 Fernhill Avenue
Dec 5	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 6	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall <i>(*note new date)</i>
Dec 8	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 23-30	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Christmas/New Year's holidays

## JANUARY 2017

Jan 9	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
Jan 12	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 16	--	--	Town Offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Jan 24	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

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



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