

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Robbins, MD
Mayor

August is typically a quiet time in Ross, with many residents away on vacation. However, the Town will soon be filled with families and children: the first day of school is Monday, August 28th. As always,

please drive carefully as many children will be walking and biking to and from school. See page 4 for further information on back to school safety.

The Ross Valley Sanitary District and the Marin Municipal Water District have been busy working on sewer and water line improvements throughout the summer. Fortunately, traffic delays from these projects have been minimal. The Town Council and staff appreciate the patience and understanding of the

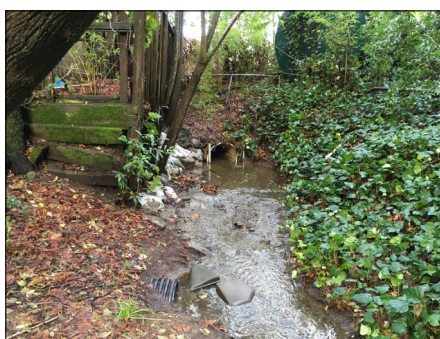
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Time to Pitch In for Creeks & Waterways

As these balmy days of late Summer slide ever closer toward the early Fall and the hectic first days of school approach, the memories of last Winter's deluge have all but disappeared. That is, unless you are one of



the many residents in Ross that has a creek or waterway running through your property. Yes, you know only too well that those Winter storms that turn Corte Madera Creek, San Anselmo Creek, Ross Creek, Murphy Creek and Fernhill Creek into raging rivers of water and sediment could be only weeks away...

During these storms, the free and unobstructed flow of each and every creek, channel or watercourse in the town is essential to the proper drainage of the town and to the protection of life and property therein. Every owner of property in the town shall, at all times, keep all creeks, channels or watercourses or portions thereof which flow upon, over, or across, the property of the owner free and clear of obstructions which measurably reduce the hydraulic capacity of the creek, channel or watercourse. Ross Municipal Code requires that all weeds, trees, bushes, shrubs, brush, undergrowth, debris, or rubbish of any character or description which, at any time, interferes with the free and unobstructed flow of water in any creek, channel or watercourse be abated (removed). The best time to have this completed is prior to the rainy season, which generally begins on September 15th.

Flooding in these creeks is a Townwide issue that can impact far more than just the homeowners who have creeks on their property. That's why we are calling on the residents of Ross to pitch in and join us for the Annual Ross Creek Clean-Up Day on Saturday, September 9, 2017. The event begins at 9:00 AM in front of the Ross Post Office, finishing up by noon. So check your emails and public kiosks over the next few weeks for more information regarding this event.





the residents around Shady Lane and the Post Office who had to endure the construction including some overnight work on the sewer. These projects should be completed by the end of this month and pavement restored with a new slurry seal in September.

At the July meeting the Town Council discussed plans for renovation of the historic Three Bear Hut at Natalie Coffin Greene Park. The renovation will occur in two phases: first, the hut itself will be restored, using as much of the original wood and stone as possible. Following restoration of the hut, the grounds around the hut will be renovated, with new picnic tables, group seating, and improved pedestrian accessibility. Fundraising for this special project will begin soon.



Save the date: the annual Town Dinner will take place on Friday, September 29th! This year's dinner will be held again on the Ross Common. ■

Town Dinner - September 29

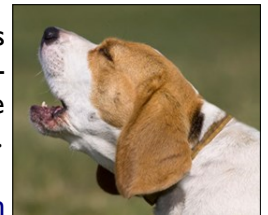


The annual Town Dinner will be held on Friday, September 29th on the Ross Common. You don't want to miss this fun annual event of music and food with your fellow Ross community members. Music will once again be provided by the Bob Scott All Stars. Registration for the event will open after Labor Day. More information will be sent out via Townwide email in late August. We hope you can join us.



Good Neighbor Reminder

We continue to receive complaints of barking dogs and trash receptacles left out on the street, so we are reminding residents of the following.



Ross Municipal Code ([Section 8.04.155](#)), prohibits barking dogs and unreasonable animal noise. It is the responsibility of the property owners to control their dogs and if they bark, they should be kept inside. Neighbors have observed the barking occurs mostly when the dog is left unattended, and the owners are not home. If your dog is a barker, please keep it inside when you are not home.



Trash and recycling receptacles must be brought in and stored away from public view on the same day that collection service was provided by the Marin Sanitary Service. The Town has very specific regulations regarding the storage and location of trash and recycling receptacles. See Ross Municipal Code [Section 6.12.130](#) for details.

Thank you for doing your part.

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the August Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the [August 10th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be available on this page after adoption by the Council at the September 14th Council meeting.

Address: 7 Hillgirt Drive
Applicant: William Curtiss
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Robbins recused)

Address: 70 Baywood Avenue
Applicant: Ken & Alison Pickart
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 3 Circle Drive
Applicant: Peter Nelson
Council Action: Application withdrawn



(In our ongoing series on the history of Ross (courtesy of Moya Library/Ross Historical Society, the following article was published in the Marin Journal on March 23, 1911. The full article can be read on the Town's website.)

Ross, The Countrified City

As an ideal residential community, the town of Ross would be hard to equal, particularly outside the boundaries of Marin County. Joining the city limits of San Rafael on the southwest, situated between Kentfield and San Anselmo, at the base and extending up the slope of Tamalpais, Ross is one of the most beautiful home situations imaginable. The city of San Rafael, Ross and other towns of the valley are so closely built as to be in reality one city - making a population of more than 10,000 people.

The town was incorporated in 1908 and is conducted on good business lines, her trustees being business

men well fitted to handle the reins of government. The census reports for 1910 gives the population at 556, but the town continues to grow and now has more than 600 people whose homes scattered throughout the shaded canyons, surmounting the crests of gently sloping hills, and tucked away in the primeval forests that are still and for years to come will be one of the prides of Marin.

Many of San Francisco's most prominent business men have in the past chosen this garden spot for a few months' rest and outing in the summer and from this have grown to love Ross, and its surroundings, resulting in the erection of mansions and the development of gardens that are a continual source of wonder and admiration. These same citizens, many of them, now make Ross their permanent home.

Their dwellings with the rounding grounds of rarest flowers and shrubbery, rose gardens that know no superior anywhere, set down in the midst of natural beauties. Rough underbrush, gigantic pines and redwoods, are among the features that bring Ross into the prominence it now holds as a purely residence town. Old oaks, knotted and gnarled, patriarchs among their kind, gracefully draped with moss and mistletoe, spread their gigantic arms over some of the most beautiful lawns of which California may boast, while at their very roots are nestled the rarest specimens of semi-tropical plants and flowers. Among these gardens and along the shaded roadways, tree squirrels hold their frolics, unafraid and undisturbed by hunter or trap, and they too lend their charm to the beauties of Ross.

While it is so thoroughly "countrified" and natural, still the conveniences of a developed civilization are at hand. Pure mountain water, electric lights, gas, a perfect sewer system, and telephones which put the house holder in direct communication with accommodating and energetic trades people in San Anselmo or San Rafael, bring the Ross residents into a close touch with civilization as a nature loving person could wish. (Go to <http://www.townofross.org/community/page/look-back-historical-articles-ross> to continue reading the rest of the article on the Town's website.)





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Audrey Hildebrand, our beloved Recreation Specialist, is leaving the department to move to a new home in Eureka with her family, including her new baby Jaxon and partner Dan Hefernan. Audrey was instrumental in the transition of Ross Recreation to a Town of Ross Department. She created the very popular Kids Club after school program at Ross School. As Recreation Specialist, Audrey oversaw our special interest classes and camps. Dan was responsible for the development of our mountain biking camps and both Dan and Audrey brought a high degree of energy to the Department.



We will miss their enthusiasm and professionalism. We wish Audrey, Dan and Jaxon the best in their new home!

Fall Program

Registration for the Fall program is open. Youth programs include soccer, tennis, lacrosse, carpentry, academic chess, Lego Stem Challenge, Cybergarage, Makers in Motion, ballroom dance and more. New this fall is a hip-hop dance class offered at Ross School. Adult programs include men's drop-in basketball, tennis and holiday wreath making.



Register online at www.rossrecreation.org.

PUBLIC SAFETY - Message from the Chief

Back to School Safety

Believe it or not, kids will be headed back to school soon. Now is a good time to remind children and parents how to safely return to school. Whether your children are walking, being driven, or riding a bicycle, there are a few tips to ensure they are as safe as possible.

If kids are walking:

- Map out a safe route to school and walk it with your child for a few days so he/she becomes familiar with the route.
- Make sure your child crosses at intersections where there is a crossing guard. Have children wear bright clothing that can be seen by drivers.



Riding or driving in the car:

- Everyone must wear a seat belt. Use age-appropriate child care/booster seat. If you have a teen driving, remind him/her of safe driving, use of seat belts at all times, and cell phone restrictions.

On a bicycle:

- Make sure your child always wears a helmet.
- Teach children to ride in the same direction as traffic, on the right side of the road. Explain the "rules of the road" and to obey all traffic signs and signals.

Tips for driving in a school zone:

- Slow down** - The simplest thing any driver can do when there are new driving hazards is slow down.
- Allow More Time** - As a new school year begins allow yourself more time to get where you are going until you can figure out the effects of increased traffic.
- Learn the Rules** - Schools usually have places for parents to drop off and pick up children. If you are driving your child to school learn where these areas are and follow the procedures. Never block pick up and drop off areas.
- Yield to Pedestrians** - Remember to yield to children/parents in crosswalks as they have the right-of-way.
- Carpool** - If at all possible carpool with other parents to pick up and drop off children.
- Talk with Teen Drivers.** Remind your teen drivers about the importance of being extra careful in and around school zones.

Be safe and enjoy the school year. ■

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 2017

| | | | |
|--------|------|----|---|
| Aug 1 | 7:00 | pm | Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall |
| Aug 10 | 6:00 | pm | Council Meeting, Town Hall |
| Aug 22 | 7:00 | pm | Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall |

SEPTEMBER 2017

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|--------|------|----|---|
| Sep 4 | -- | -- | Town Hall offices closed for Labor Day |
| Sep 9 | 9:00 | am | Annual Ross Creek Clean-up Day, Ross Post Office |
| Sep 11 | 7:15 | pm | Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall |
| Sep 14 | 6:00 | pm | Council Meeting, Town Hall |
| Sep 26 | 7:00 | pm | Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall |
| Sep 29 | 5:00 | pm | Annual Ross Town Dinner, Ross Common |

OCTOBER 2017

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|--------|------|----|---|
| Oct 9 | 7:15 | pm | Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall |
| Oct 12 | 6:00 | pm | Council Meeting, Town Hall |
| Oct 24 | 7:00 | pm | Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall |

RECURRING EVENTS

Thursdays, May - October Ross Farm Stand, 11:30 am - 7:30 pm, Ross Common

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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