

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 11 | Issue 7 | July 2017

Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Robbins, MD
Mayor

The Town's annual Fourth of July parade and picnic was a great success! Thanks go to Ross Recreation Manager Mike Armstrong and his team – they've been planning the event for months, and worked tirelessly throughout the day to make sure that everything was perfect. Highlights of the day included a beautiful rendition of the national anthem sung by Ross School students Katherine B. (8th Grade) and her brother Alex B. (5th Grade); the Shady Ladies singers; the Marin Golden Gate Barbershop Chorus, hot dogs from "Let's Be Frank", Marc Smith and the Lost at Home Drum Line leading the parade along with John Lil (Uncle Sam), and, as always, special games on the Common for the children. I also want to thank the Ross Property Owners

Continued on Page 2

Ross Fourth of July Celebration

The Town of Ross Fourth of July celebration was a fun-filled event with 700 people attending the festivities. A special thanks to Mike

Armstrong and the Recreation Department for overseeing the event. Thanks to everyone who volunteered and participated (parade, musical entertainment, food, games), and helped make this event such a special annual celebration!



IN THIS ISSUE

2. Update on 3 Bear Hut & NCG Park
3. Planning
3. Mosquito Season
3. Ross History: Once Upon a Time
4. Town Joins Deep Green Program
4. Safe Pathways to School Project
4. Recreation
5. Calendar



Association for their generous donation towards this event.

The summer is typically a quiet time in Ross. The Town, however, takes advantage of the quiet days to do much-needed road and drainage repairs. This summer work will be done on Brookwood Lane, Redwood Drive and Allen Lane. There will be unavoidable noise and inconvenience, but the projects are expected to be completed within 25 working days, before the end of August. Ross Valley Sanitary District and Marin Municipal Water District are also busy in various parts of town making sewer line and water line improvements.



The Ross community will be receiving updates from leaders of the County flood control district, which is currently developing plans for flood mitigation using a \$7.7 million grant from the State. The flood control district had initially intended to use the grant money for a flood mitigation project at Phoenix Lake, but issues with that project prompted the district's board to migrate the grant money to a different project. The new project involves Corte Madera Creek improvements in Ross and Kentfield. The Ross improvements include (1) removing the fish ladder behind the post office (2) replacing sections of the concrete channel with a widened natural creek channel and (3) creating a park-like setting with native vegetation in the creek channel areas that are widened. The bike path would likely be moved further west with this plan, with the tennis courts remaining as is. The flood control district will be studying this option in more detail in the upcoming months, and will be seeking input from the Ross community.

Save the date: the annual Town Dinner will take place on Friday September 29! ■

Progress Update on Three Bear Hut and Natalie Coffin Greene Park Renovations

As part of the public outreach for the long-awaited renovations to Three Bear Hut and Natalie Coffin Greene Park, Town staff and Architectural consultants presented a conceptual site plan and 3-dimensional renderings for the proposed improvements to the picnic area at Natalie Coffin Greene Park. The Three Bear Hut is a rare and intact example of a Park Rustic-style public building constructed in Marin County in 1936 under Franklin D Roosevelt's "New Deal" Civilian Conservation Corps. The Hut is indeed a unique and valuable public resource for the citizens of Ross.

Phase One of the total project is the rehabilitation of the Three Bear Hut structure itself. Rehabilitation methods for the wood members of the structure will consist of removal and replacement of the deteriorated sections combined with epoxy injection. Phase Two will be the rehabilitation of the Natalie Coffin Greene Park area, including the restoration and installation of the picnic tables, improved pedestrian accessibility, group seating, and interpretive signage. Construction is scheduled to start in the Summer of 2018.



PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the July Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the [July 13th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be available on this page after adoption by the Council at the August 10th Council meeting.

Address: 177 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: Zach McReynolds
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-1-1 (Russell Opposed, Hoertkorn recused)

Address: 195 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: Sarah Rafanelli/Wyeth Goodenough
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-1-1 (Robbins opposed, Hoertkorn recused)

Mosquito Season is Here

At the July Council meeting, the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District (MSMVCD) provided an update on the District's efforts in vector control. As reported in a previous townwide email sent to residents, mosquito season is upon us. The rainy winter created pools of standing water and with the warm weather we have had, the mosquitoes are thriving. Backyards are the number one source for mosquito production. It's important to eliminate any standing water on a regular basis, as mosquitoes need as little as a 1/2 inch of water to complete their life cycle.

The MSMVCD provides free vector control services throughout Marin County, including the Town of Ross. "Vector" means any animal capable of transmitting the causative agent of human disease or of producing human discomfort or injury. Mosquitos, flies, mites, ticks, and rodents are all examples of vectors. MSMVCD provides periodic sprayings of some of the seasonal wet spots within the Town's roadside ditches. The MSMVCD website (www.msмосquito.com) is an excellent resource for mosquito and other vector control. For contact information, or to request a free service visit to your property, please go to: <http://msмосquito.com/about-us/contact-us>.



ONCE UPON A TIME....

(The Moya Library/Ross Historical Society will be sharing stories and photos of Ross history from their archives, which The Morning After will feature periodically. The following article was sourced from the San Francisco Chronicle in 1924 (July 19, November 11.)

When the Town of Ross was a City of Industry?

While you won't find any major industry in Ross today, there was once a factory here, just off Winding Way. No trace remains today, but C.A. Meusdorffer, one of the original Town trustees, and his son opened a factory in 1924. Not just any factory, but one to make sirens, from those attached to trucks to large air raid sirens. It shouldn't be surprising that it didn't take long for the neighbors to notice. As the San Francisco Chronicle reported on July 19, 1924, "Noise Factory Roils Marin, Ross Folk Sue Auto Siren Plant Owners, Trial Honks Held Nuisance". A neighbor, Mrs. Ruggles, took the Meusdorffers to court, suing for \$5,000 personal damages. She also noted a sharp drop in her home's value.



Months later, in November of 1924, the headline was "Portia Outdone by Decision", comparing the judgment to the 'pound of flesh' dilemma from Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice. The factory could continue production and would not have to pay damages to Mrs. Ruggles, but there was a confounding condition attached to this decision. They were not to disturb the neighbors and could only operate if the testing of their sirens made no noise. If it was a backhanded way to shut them down, it didn't work. I recently spoke to Louie Soldavini, a 101 year old resident of San Rafael who once worked at the factory. Their solution was to press the equipment against their bodies to muffle the sound and take the larger sirens to McNear's brickyard near the Bay for testing. The company was eventually sold and production moved elsewhere. The site of the factory is now occupied by two residences on Winding Way, near Laurel Grove. ■

Visit the Moya Library at MAGC to see the siren and nozzle from that historic factory (www.moya-rhs.org).



Town Joins MCE Deep Green

At last month's Council meeting, the Town elected to change over the electrical energy consumption accounts for Town-owned facilities from Marin Clean Energy (MCE) Light Green program to the MCE Deep Green program beginning in Fiscal Year 2017-18. The City was previously enrolled in MCE's Light Green energy program where 50% of electrical energy is provided from renewable sources such as solar, wind, bioenergy, geothermal, and small hydroelectric. The Deep Green program would move the Town to 100% renewable energy sources.

The Town's adoption of the Deep Green program would be consistent with emissions reduction goals established in the Town's 2010 Climate Action Plan (CAP) and 2005 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Report. The Deep Green program would reduce GHG emissions by approximately 33 metric tons representing 84% of the goal of reaching 20% reduction of Town's 2005 baseline output of GHG emissions by the year 2020. The additional cost of Deep Green is approximately \$2,500 annually.

2017 Measure A - Safe Pathways to School Project Completed

The new section of sidewalk along the Marin Art and Garden Center (MAGC) street frontage opened up at the end of June. The 120' long section of sidewalk up Laurel Grove from Sir Francis Drake Boulevard provides an accessible pathway for pedestrians to safely walk from the intersection of Sir Francis Drake and Lagunitas to Laurel Grove without passing through the MAGC parking lot. The \$51,322 project was funded by a \$25,000 Measure A Transportation sales tax grant and Town of Ross transportation funds.



RECREATION NEWS

Summer programs registration is ongoing for July and August Camps. This year, Ross Recreation is extending our main camps through the first week of August including **Top Gun, Adventure Camp, Marin Explorers, Sporty Girls and Holly's Hoppin Camp**. Our popular **Gone Fishin' Camp** returns in mid-August, as does **Car-pentry for Kids**.



The Ross Recreation Department has received an equipment grant from the U.S. Field Hockey Association to conduct a Field Hockey Camp. The 3-day camp is designed for players new to the sport and is open to girls entering 6th, 7th or 8th grades. This is a great opportunity for players to gain exposure to field hockey. The camp will be held on August 2, 3 and 4 at Redwood High School from 12:00p.m. to 3:00p.m. Registration is \$125 per person. ****Space is limited to the first 24 players**.**

Instructor for the camp is Aline Copp who is a former Harvard University NCAA Division I varsity field hockey player and is currently coaching at the high school level in Marin. Come and experience one of the fastest growing sports in the country!



Register online at www.rossrecreation.org.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2017

Jul 4	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Independence Day
Jul 4	11:00	am	Annual Ross 4th of July Parade and Picnic, Ross Common
Jul 10	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Jul 11	8:00	am	Special Council Meeting, Town Hall
Jul 13	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall

AUGUST 2017

Aug 1	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall <i>*note date change</i>
Aug 7	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association 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

Sep 4	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Labor Day
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

RECURRING EVENTS

Thursdays, May - October	Ross Farm Stand, 11:30 am - 7:30 pm, Ross Common
Thursdays, Jun 29-Aug 10	MAGC 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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