

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Robbins, MD
Mayor

We're all looking forward to the upcoming Town Dinner on Friday October 6th from 5:30-9pm. Please note that the date of the dinner has been changed from the previously announced date of September 29th. A number of residents pointed out that September 29 is the beginning of Yom Kippur. The Town wishes to hold a community celebration that can be attended by all, so the dinner was postponed one week, to Friday, October 6th. You can register online at http://www.rossrecreation.org/ross_dinner.html, or mail a check payable to the "Town of Ross", Ross Recreation Department, PO Box 117, Ross, CA 94957. The cost per person (adults and children) is \$10. See you there!

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Thank You to Creek Clean Up Volunteers

On Saturday, September 9th, over two dozen Ross residents including seven Ross School students, turned out to participate in the annual creek cleanup. The main goal of the event was to remove loose debris such as branches, brush and litter that had collected in the creek channel since last winter. All of this debris in the creek channel can cause the water to back up, and overflow the creek banks. A big thank you to Chris Martin for helping to organize this community event, and a thank you to Mayor Elizabeth Robbins and all who came out to support our community.



Property owners who live along the creek may not realize that the creek behind their homes belongs to them, and they are responsible for maintaining the creek bank and channel. This is the time of year to inspect the creek bank and channel behind your home, and remove any dead brush, downed branches and debris. Does your creek bank look stable? Are there sections of your bank that have eroded, collapsed and fallen into the creek channel? Do you have any trees that are leaning more than usual? If you see potential problems you should hire an expert to evaluate the health and condition of your creek bank. It's helpful to take pictures of your creek bank a few times a year so you have a record of what it should look like for comparison, and it's especially important to check after a major storm. If you find you have a creek bank issue, the [Marin Resource Conservation District](#) Urban Streams Program Manager Sarah Phillips, offers assistance and guidance to property owners for the repair and permitting process. Contact the [Public Works Department](#) if you have further questions.

Annual Ross Town Dinner - Friday, October 6

****Note new date****

5:30-9:00 pm, Ross Common

Go to www.townofross.org for more information.

Register by October 2nd.



Mayor's Corner - continued from Page 1

The Ross Valley Flood Control District 9 Advisory Board continues to meet to discuss projects to mitigate flooding in the Ross Valley. A project currently being discussed involves removing the existing fish ladder, removing the concrete walls along the section of the creek behind the post office to the end of the tennis courts, and naturalizing and widening the creek bed. Another portion of the overall project being reviewed is the naturalization of a portion of the creek channel located on the College of Marin property. The next meeting of the Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board will be held on Tuesday September 19 from 7-9pm in the Larkspur City Hall, 400 Magnolia Avenue, Larkspur. All are welcome.

We greatly appreciate the patience of residents as we continue to experience noise and disruptions from the multiple sewer and water line projects throughout the town. There have been substantially more sewer and water district improvements going on in Ross these past two years (and likely next year) as both the water and sewer districts have been upgrading old, deteriorating infrastructure.

Over two dozen Ross residents participated in the annual Ross Creek cleanup this past Saturday, including seven Ross School students and several young children. The group walked through the town's creek beds, collecting garbage and piling up branches and debris for removal by the Public Works staff. The debris filled three dump trucks! It was actually quite enjoyable spending the morning with Ross residents as we explored and cleared the creek beds. Thank you to all who helped with this important project. ■



Permitting of EV Charging Stations



The Town Council is amending the Ross Municipal Code to provide an expedited, streamlined permitting process for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. In 2012,

Governor Brown issued an Executive Order directing relevant state agencies to establish benchmarks to help the State's zero-emission vehicle infrastructure support 1.5 million Zero Emission Vehicles by 2025. An impediment to this goal was the lack of certainty and uniformity in the local permitting of EV charging stations. Assembly Bill 1236 was intended to remove that impediment, and to promote and encourage the use of EV charging stations. As such, the Town Council is amending our code related to EV charging stations by: 1) adopting a permitting checklist of all requirements an applicant must comply with; 2) allowing electronic submittal of expedited permit documents; 3) administratively approving applications to install EV charging stations through the issuance of a building permit or similar permit; and 4) providing an appeal of the Building Official's EV charging station permit decision to the Town Council.

Elevation Certificates: What is it and do I need one?

If you own a property that is located within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), it is likely you will need an Elevation Certificate (EC) for flood insurance purposes. An EC provides documented proof to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that either your existing residence, new residences, or substantial remodels are properly elevated above the projected 100-year flood plain as shown on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). Additionally, if your EC shows that your residence is consistent with the FEMA FIRM you will be eligible for flood insurance premium discounts due to the Town's participation in the FEMA sponsored Community Rating System (CRS).

For more information on an EC, when an EC would be required, and how to get one, contact the Town's Public Works Director (AKA Flood Plain Administrator), Rich Simonitch at (415) 453-1453 ext. 115. There are also several online resources like Marinmap.org where you can get specific information about your property's flood risk or you can access the below link to FEMA's Elevation Certificate and instructions:

https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1503346187820-b2f06c29a603ba9d08de1dc3ab64235b/F-053_EC_May2017_RE_rev.pdf

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the September Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the [September 14](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be available on this page after adoption by the Council at the October 12th Council meeting.

Address: 206 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: Matthew & Emily Abbott
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 103 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: John & Glennis Jones
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0



(Continuing our ongoing series on the history of Ross (courtesy of Moya Library/Ross Historical Society, the following article (in quotes) made headlines for the August 12, 1911 issue of the San Francisco Call.)

"Bussing by Spooning Folk Is Forbidden at Ross

ROSS, Aug. 11. Ross Common, the new park of this aristocratic village, must be as puritanical in spirit as it is in name. Instead of "Do not pick the flowers," or "Keep off the grass," visitors may be horrified by, signs reading, "No spooning allowed." Ross is a dignified hamlet of millionaires. Love making is threatened with extinction. At the last meeting of the city fathers an ordinance was introduced by Trustee C. A. Meussdorffer, which will make it unlawful for persons to engage in oscillatory exercises on the Ross Common. While there is no "ducking stool," town pump nor stocks in which, offenders may be punished, there is a constable ready to clap kissing bugs in the town lockup the moment the ordinance is passed. There will be no more holding hands in

the pale moonlight, no more counting of stars. Whether



a man will be arrested for kissing his wife on Sunday is not known. The proposed ordinance makes it a misdemeanor or to kiss in the park even

when "there is no one looking but the owl and the moon." But there must be nothing common about Ross except the name of the new park."

Councilmembers wanted the Town to purchase the Common from Mrs. Ross even though they did not have the funds in reserves. By owning the Common the Council could control the use of the property and most wanted to keep the Town rural. They did not want to see shops, stores and saloons built next to the train station. The Town decided to create a park-like setting that would be used by Town residents. Well, it simply did not turn out that way exactly. As more San Francisco residents discovered weekend hiking on Mount Tamalpais, the Ross Station became a very popular spot to start the hike to the Mountain. Campers would arrive on the afternoon train and would commence setting up their tents and cooking facilities on the Common to spend the night. After dinner bottles of wine and musical instruments usually appeared and couples would dance and sing and do what couples usually do. This was not what the Councilmembers had in mind.

The next morning the campers would arise very early and hike up Eldridge Grade to enjoy a first-class breakfast at the Summit Tavern at the top of Mount Tamalpais. Later in the day they would ride the gravity cars back down to Mill Valley on the Crookedest Railroad in the World built by William Kent and his partner Sidney Cushing. It was a short train ride from Mill Valley to Sausalito where the steam-boat ferries brought them home to San Francisco.



The Ban on Kissing on the Common never was brought to a full Council vote and the proposed ordinance was never put into effect.

Written by The Moya Library-Ross Historical Society for the Town of Ross Morning After Town Newsletter. Go to <http://www.townofross.org/community/page/look-back-historical-articles-ross> to view past articles on the Town's website.)





PUBLIC SAFETY

Car Burglaries

On August 23rd and 25th, three car burglaries occurred at Natalie Coffin Greene Park. The incidents happened in the late afternoon, where car windows were broken, and a wallet and purse were taken from the vehicles. No suspects were observed during these incidents. The Ross Police Department obtained a camera on loan from the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) rangers which was placed in the park.



On August 30th, the Police Department received a call of two suspicious people in the park between the ages of 18-20 years old, in a tan Jeep Wagon. When Police arrived, the vehicle and subjects were gone, and two cars had been burglarized. Ross Police were able to get photos of the suspects approaching one of the victim's vehicles and carrying away property from the car. Ross Police contacted the owner of the Jeep Wagon and found the woman had sold the car to a neighbor, an 18 year old male. The car owner did not appear to be one of the males in the photos taken, and as he could not be placed at the scene of the crime, no arrest could be made.

A flyer has been circulated to police agencies in the Bay Area in an attempt to identify the suspects.

On September 6th, 11 cars were broken into in the Branson School parking lot during an evening event. Branson School had upgraded their camera system and had captured images of the suspects (a young white female and a black male and their vehicle). The vehicle belonged to a female juvenile who previously lived in Fairfax. Investigation of this case continues.

Protect your property. Please do not leave valuables in your car while running, riding or hiking in the park. Thieves are aware that people leave their valuables in their cars while at places such as parks, beaches, and gyms, and they have targeted these areas for many years. ■

RECREATION NEWS

Ross Recreation welcomes Jeneane Wagner to the Department. Jeneane is one of our Recreation Specialists and oversees the Ross Recreation special Interest classes and the popular Kids Club afterschool program. Jeneane is a native of Ross and attended Ross School, where her son is currently in second grade.



Jeneane Wagner

FALL PROGRAM

Fall program has begun with afterschool activities at Bacich and Ross Schools. New for the Fall is a youth Hip Hop dance class offered at Ross School. Registration for youth basketball is open for boys and girls grades K through 4. Games and practices will be held at Bacich and Ross School Gymnasiums.

Register for programs at: rossrecreation.org



The Ross Preschool located at St. John's Church is off to a phenomenal start! With a strong enrollment of 35 wonderful children, the preschool, led by David Allen-Hughes and his team of returning teachers, offers a program for both younger students and pre-K students. The play-based, nature oriented school had a number of physical upgrades including a new outdoor classroom and a large gravel pit for exploring and digging. Most importantly, the students are happy, engaged and love to learn!



ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2017

| | | | |
|--------|------|----|---|
| 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 18 | 6:00 | pm | Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall (<i>*note new date</i>) |

OCTOBER 2017

| | | | |
|--------|------|----|--|
| Oct 6 | 5:30 | pm | Annual Ross Town Dinner, Ross Common (<i>*note new date</i>) |
| Oct 9 | 7:15 | pm | Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall |
| Oct 12 | 6:00 | pm | Council Meeting, Town Hall |
| Oct 18 | 5:00 | pm | Finance Committee Meeting, Town Hall |
| Oct 24 | 7:00 | pm | Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall |

NOVEMBER 2017

| | | | |
|-------------|------|----|---|
| Nov 6 | 7:15 | pm | Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall |
| Nov 9 | 6:00 | pm | Council Meeting, Town Hall |
| Nov 10 | -- | -- | Town Hall offices closed for Veterans Day |
| Nov 23 & 24 | -- | -- | Town Hall offices closed for Thanksgiving |
| Nov 28 | 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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 Street Address: 31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Ross, CA 94957

Visit us at www.townofross.org



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