

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 18 | Issue 4 | April 2024

Mayor's Corner



Mayor Elizabeth Brekhus

I am thrilled to announce some exciting upcoming events in our Town that I encourage you all to attend.

First and foremost, the RPOA will be hosting a musical performance by Swift, featuring Taylor Swift songs. The event will take place on Friday, April 19 at 5pm.

Next on the agenda is the Garden Tour scheduled for May 11, 2024, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. This event, organized by the Ross PTO, serves as a crucial fundraiser for Ross School. I always purchase tickets for my mother, friends, and clients who I believe will appreciate the opportunity to explore the beautiful gardens of our small town.

Last but certainly not least, the Ross Auxiliary dinner, a Verdant Affair, will take place on Saturday, April 20. I have already secured my tickets and am currently on the lookout for a green outfit in line with the Verdant wear theme. This event is my personal favorite, as it offers residents the chance to connect with one another in a delightful dinner party setting. The Auxiliary has made substantial improvements over the years, such as hiring profes-

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TRAFFIC IN TOWN

The number one complaint in almost every town in Marin County is traffic. In Ross, the Police Department does its best to address top areas of concern with a special focus on traffic. The PD uses a modifiable and informal traffic plan, that provides guidance and service based on the needs of residents and the resources available. Ross officers check the daily flow of traffic and how it impacts the town and modifies its response accordingly. Regularly requested enforcement in areas near schools, Sir Francis Drake Blvd at Bolinas Avenue, Allen Avenue, Laurel Grove near Canyon Road, and Norwood Avenue are also factored in. Wellington Avenue at Baywood Drive is also now a part of the regular patrol. The goal is to calm traffic, reduce stop sign violations, and create behavior changes that will contribute to safer roads for everyone.

Parking difficulties come and go with construction, school, and special events. The PD works with residents, event planners and contractors to establish a balance and find what works, within the law. Healthy and vital downtown and safe neighborhoods are the goal and highly promoted. Enforcement of parking issues can be complicated by private streets and the limited ability to enforce some California Vehicle Code laws. However, the town has a robust Municipal Code that provides guidance and authority for enforcement on private roads. The Town of Ross is fortunate to have a great Department of Public Works who assist by painting faded red zones and repairing existing signage. The goal is to allow access for residents and first responders. Parking questions or illegally parked cars should be reported to the dispatch center at 415-453-2727.

With the weather getting better, expectations are that the weekend bicycle groups will return to enjoy Ross's downtown and the beautiful local roads. The PD reached out to bicycle advocate groups in Marin County and asked them to share the message of safe and responsible riding, with an emphasis on following the rules of the road. Schools and children have also been asked to share the mission of "Ride Safe in Ross." You may see students wearing glow in the dark wristbands as a reminder!



Chief Pata

sional chefs and moving the event to the Spring. I hope to see you all there as well.

As many of you may already know, this will be my final regular council meeting as a Council Member and Mayor. Both Beach Kuhl and I will be stepping down after three terms on the Council. On April 25th, at the Council budget meeting, beginning at 9:00 am, the new Council Members will be sworn in: Teri Dowling, Bill Kircher (incumbent Mayor Pro Tem), and Mathew Salter. I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors on the Council.

It has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve on the Council for the past 12 years. Serving as a Council Member has been a full-circle experience for me, as my father, Peter Brekhus, served for 16 years in Ross. It has been a pleasure meeting and collaborating with multiple generations of Ross residents, some of whom I knew from childhood and others I have had the pleasure of meeting throughout the years.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside fellow Council Members and dedicated staff members who form an essential part of our Town's fabric. Additionally, serving as the President of the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers has allowed me to forge valuable connections and work with other council members and the County Board of Supervisors.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for your trust and support throughout my time in this role.

~~Mayor Elizabeth Brekhus

Financial Assistance and Energy Saving Solutions from PG&E

Explore how to manage your energy costs with these assistance programs.

Bill management assistance:

Get help to manage your bill.

Payment Arrangement Plans

Use flexible payments to get you back on track. To learn more, please visit pge.com/helpmepay, or call 1-800-743-5000.

Budget Billing evens out the highs and lows of your monthly bills. To learn more, please visit pge.com/budgetbilling, or call 1-800-743-5000.

Arrearage Management Plan (AMP) is a payment plan option that helps qualifying residential customers reduce unpaid balances on their energy bills. To learn more and apply for this program, please visit pge.com/AMP.

One-time assistance

Get help to pay past due bills.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Eligible customers may qualify for up to \$1,000 to help pay household energy costs, or receive in-home weatherization services. To learn how to apply, or to find a local service provider, please visit csd.ca.gov/energybills, or call the toll-free help line at 1-866-675-6623.

Relief for Energy Assistance through Community Help (REACH)

provides financial assistance during times of hardship. To qualify for an energy credit your past due bill balance cannot exceed \$300. To see if you qualify for this program, please visit pge.com/REACH, or call 1-800-933-9677.

Long-term assistance

Find ways to save money and reduce future energy bills.

California Alternate Rates for Energy Program (CARE) offers a monthly discount of 20% or more on gas and electricity. To see if you qualify for this program, please visit pge.com/care, or call 1-866-743-2273.

Family Electric Rate Assistance Program (FERA)

provides a monthly discount of 18% on electricity to households with three or more people. To see if you qualify for this program, please visit pge.com/fera, or call 1-866-743-2273.

Energy Savings Assistance Program

helps you reduce your energy bills with free energy-efficient home upgrades. To see if you qualify for this program, please visit pge.com/esa, or call 1-800-933-9555



Business Customer Support

For more information on the resources available for your business, please visit pge.com/support.



PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the April 4, 2024 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's April 4 website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted on this page after adoption by the Council.

Address: 12 Garden Road
Applicant: Michael and Margot Edde
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Brekhus recused)

Address: 200 Lagunitas Road
Applicant: Sarah and Scott Niehaus
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 2 Bellagio Road
Applicant: Bellagio Ross LLP
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0



You're Invited...

A Verdant Affair: An Evening in Green!
Spring Dinner on April 20, 2024

5pm Cocktails

7pm Dinner

[\(Purchase Tickets Here\)](#)

Dominic Puterbaugh

New Town of Ross Police Officer

Dominic Puterbaugh started working as a Police Officer for the Town of Ross on March 25, 2024. He will be in the training program for the next 12 weeks.



Dominic was born and raised in Santa Rosa. He attended Montgomery High School, where he played football, rugby and participated in track and field. After graduating from high school, Dominic enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserves where he served for a number of years. His Military Occupational Specialty was that of Infantry Assault. Dominic was honorably discharged in 2019 at the rank of Corporal.

In January of 2020, Dominic began working as a Correctional Deputy for the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office. During his time as a correctional deputy, Dominic was a member of the jail's Mental Health, Booking and Male Inmate Special Teams. Dominic attended the Santa Rosa Jr. College Police Academy and graduated in May of 2022.

Dominic lives with his girlfriend who is a Tiburon Police Officer. His hobbies are hiking and mountain biking.

Fire-Smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners



April: Assess Your Fire Risk

When you evaluate your fire risk, think *lean, clean, and green*.

Lean landscapes

- ◆ Plant with appropriate spacing between plants
- ◆ Separate clusters of plants from each other with pathways of non-combustible materials

Clean landscapes

- ◆ Remove dried grass, weeds, dead branches, and all other dead vegetation
- ◆ Check gutters, roofs, eaves, vents, chimneys, and under decks for leaf and needle litter
- ◆ Thin and reduce branches from dense tree canopies

Green landscapes

- ◆ Keep your plants healthy with proper irrigation, and check your irrigation system regularly for leaks or malfunctions
- ◆ Apply compost and mulches to help stabilize soil temperature and prevent evaporation, keeping soil moist and healthy

Additional learning resources:

Plant spacing: <https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/BASICS/FIRESMARTLANDSCAPING/Plan/#spacing>

Pruning: <https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/BASICS/FIRESMARTLANDSCAPING/Tips/#jan>

Irrigation: https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/BASICS/IRRIGATION_911/HowTo/

Mulch: <https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/BASICS/FIRESMARTLANDSCAPING/Tips/#Jul>

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPING, VISIT [UC MARIN MASTER GARDENER WEBSITE](#).

#Jul

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPING, VISIT [UC MARIN MASTER GARDENER WEBSITE](#).



FIRE
SAFE
MARIN



MARIN WILDFIRE
PREVENTION AUTHORITY

WILDFIRE SAFETY TIPS!!! 3 ways to get your yard ready!

It doesn't hurt to start getting ready for fire season now. Here are 3 ways to get your yard ready! Which one is on your list?

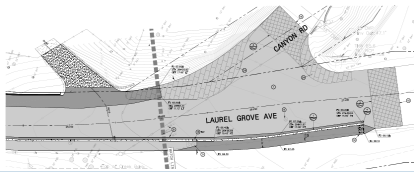
Click [here](#) to watch video.



Laurel Grove Phase IIB Project Moves Forward

Town Council gave the go-ahead last night to advertise the next phase of the Laurel Grove Safe Pathways project for construction bids. "Laurel Grove Safe Pathways Phase IIB" will extend the recently completed Phase IIA roadway and pedestrian pathway improvements from the intersection of Monte Alegria up to and including the intersection of Canyon Road.

The project consists of 12,250 square feet of restored pavement, a new concrete retaining wall with decorative façade, new lane striping, and signage. 360 feet of pedestrian pathway will be constructed from the terminus of the existing pathway across from Monte Alegria to a location just opposite the Canyon Road intersection. Construction is planned to begin mid-June of this year and will be completed before school starts in the Fall of 2024.



AREA AGENCY ON AGING

AREA PLAN

FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR MARIN COUNTY OLDER ADULTS

2024 - 2028

LIVE LONG LIVE WELL
MARIN COUNTY AGING AND ADULT SERVICES

Learn what the 2023 AAA Older Adult Needs Assessment revealed and how it will shape the AAA's goals, strategies and priorities for the coming four years. Your in-person or virtual attendance and comments are important as we discuss our work and its impact in the community.

This presentation will be exclusively about the Area Plan 2024-2028.

Commission on Aging business meeting follows immediately thereafter.

A draft of the 2024-2028 Area Plan will be posted April 2, 2024 on <https://www.marinhhs.org/area-agency-aging>. You can request a hard copy by emailing 473info@marincounty.org or calling 415-473-INFO (4636).

MONDAY, APRIL 8
1:30 - 2:30 P.M.



MARIN WILDFIRE PREVENTION AUTHORITY
1600 LOS GAMOS RD., STE. 335,
SAN RAFAEL OR VIA ZOOM LINK

PUBLIC HEARING
"AAA TODAY WITH JENAY"

2024-2028 AREA PLAN

Your host Jenay Cottrell and special guests cordially invite you to attend the annual public hearing of the Marin Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and Marin County Commission on Aging (MCCOA). Your presence and voice are valued and appreciated. No RSVP required.

All public meetings and events sponsored or conducted by the County of Marin are held in accessible sites. Requests for accommodations may be made by calling (415) 473-4381 (voice), (415) 473-3232 (TTY) or 711 for the California Relay Service or e-mailing disabilityaccess@marincounty.org at least four work days in advance of the event. Copies of documents are available in alternative formats, upon written request.



SUMMER CAMPS

Fun for EVERYone!

Camps Begin
June 17th!

Higgins Tennis Camp
Top Gun Sports
Tinker Tech Coding
Art Camp
And More!



Register Today!

WWW.ROSSRECREATION.ORG / 415-453-6020



We Are

HIRING

P/T RECREATION INSTRUCTORS!

Part-time Afterschool Youth Recreation Instructors for general afterschool, K-8 Sports, Arts, Music classes, and more!

Immediate openings available.

Scan QR code to learn more and apply!



rossrec@rossrecreation.org

415-453-6020

9 Lagunitas Rd, Ross CA 94957



ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2024

- Apr 8 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
- Apr 16 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Apr 19 5:00 pm Live on the Common
- Apr 25 9:00 am Town Council Annual Special Meeting-Budget Workshop

MAY 2024

- May 6 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- May 13 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
- May 21 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- May 27 All Day Memorial Day Holiday—Town Offices Closed

JUNE 2024

- June 10 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
- June 11 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- June 13 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- June 19 All Day Juneteenth Holiday—Town Offices Closed

July 2024

- July 4 All Day July 4th Holiday—Town Offices Closed
- July 4 11:00 am July 4th Parade
- July 8 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
- July 11 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- July 16 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

CONTACT US

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--|----------------------|
| Administration Office | 415-453-1453 x105 | Police Department | 415-453-1453, Opt. 2 |
| - cmartel@townofross.org | | - rpata@townofross.org | |
| Building Department | 415-453-1453 x106 | Public Works Director | 415-453-1453 x115 |
| - breher@townofross.org | | - rsimonitch@townofross.org | |
| Bldg Inspection Hotline | 415-453-1453 x170 | Recreation Department | 415-453-6020 |
| - erobbe@townofross.org | | - rossrec@rossrecreation.org | |
| Planning/Bldg Director | 415-453-1453 x121 | Ross Valley Fire Dept | 415-258-4686 |
| - rfeliciano@townofross.org | | Town Manager | 415-453-1453 x107 |
| Planner | 415-453-1453 x116 | - cjohnson@townofross.org | |
| - alopez-vega@townofross.org | | | |

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Visit us at www.townofross.org



We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email cmartel@townofross.org

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