

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Robbins, MD
Mayor

The holiday season may be over, but there are still special events that you won't want to miss. Help build the next Neverland at Pixie Park by attending the Ross Auxiliary's annual Winter Dinner, to be held on Saturday February

10. All proceeds go to Pixie Park. The event begins with a cocktail party and auction at the Marin Art and Garden Center, followed by dinner at private residences. For information and questions contact rosswinterdinner@gmail.com. For tickets go to rosswinterdinner.com.

Winter rains require open drains. Now that the rainy season is upon us, please be sure to check the drains in front of your home and on your street. It is the

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Winter Preparedness is Now

With our first strong rainstorm of the season behind us, property owners are reminded once again what should be done now to prepare for the rainy season.



Corte Madera Creek January 9, 2018

- 1) Leaves are the main reasons a catch basin or culvert becomes plugged and causes localized flooding. Rake leaves off any sidewalk or path in front of your property. Also, remove them from the ditch or gutter in front of your property at least weekly, and place them in your recycle container. Do not rake them in piles and leave them in the street. The street sweeper is not equipped to pick up large volumes of piled leaves.
- 2) If you have an open ditch or other waterway crossing over your property you are responsible for keeping it clean and keeping the flow line at its required depth. If you change the grade of a swale passing over your property you could cause yourself and your neighbors to flood unnecessarily. Also, if you have a culvert or drainage pipe under your property, it is your responsibility to keep it clean and repair or replace it as necessary.
- 3) If you live in the hills of Ross it is very important that you keep the edge of the roadway in front of your property clean and free of leaves and dirt. At least once a week you should remove any excess leaves and dirt that have built up at the bottom of the hill and the roadway. This debris and build up can cause the water to cross over the roadway and wash out the bank. Also, the dirt and leaves wash down to the Town drainage system and cause major blockages. In most cases, when a catch basin on the flat land becomes clogged with dirt, the cause of the soil erosion problem can be traced up the road to the hill properties.
- 4) If you live along Ross Creek, Corte Madera Creek or one of the smaller creeks, please remove any debris that may be obstructing the channel. Remove all downed branches and wood from the creek entirely. If you have a dead or dying tree along the creek where it may fall during a storm, please obtain a tree removal permit at Town Hall to get it removed. Now is the time to go out and check all around your property for possible tree hazards.

Whether you live in the hills or on the valley floor, everyone is affected when there is flooding in Ross. It is every homeowner's responsibility to do all they can to protect themselves, their neighbors, and their Town. ■

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responsibility of the homeowner to keep these drains free of leaves and debris; please check your drains on a regular basis. The Town Public Works Department can help if drains become flooded. Contact them at 415-453-1453 Option 4.

The Town Council holds a strategic workshop each winter. This year's workshop will be held at the Marin Art and Garden Center, Livermore Room, on Thursday, February 15, from 9-4pm. A wide range of topics will be on the agenda, including town finances, town goals, and town policies. The public is welcome to attend this workshop.

The Ross Common is closed until early March to perform annual maintenance and turf restoration for the upcoming Spring and Summer youth sports seasons. Ross Recreation still has openings in a number of adult and youth winter programs, including February Winter Camp, held during the school's winter break, February 19-23. Sign up at www.rossrecreation.org. ■



Employee Recognition Program



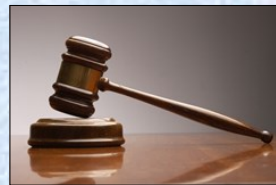
The Town recognized two long-time employees for their years of dedicated service to the Town of Ross. Town Manager Joe Chinn presented Public Works Superintendent Robert Maccario and Police Sergeant Steve Nelson with a small token of appreciation for their many years of service.

Robert Maccario began working for the Town in 1992 and has been overseeing Ross' streets, parks, trees, and facilities for 25 years. His breadth of experience and knowledge of Ross' history have made him a very valuable employee.

Robert received his California State Contractors license when he was 20 years old. In his many years of experience he has operated several types of construction and farm equipment including backhoes, tractors, loaders, road graders, earthmovers, rollers, compactors, paving machines, and dump trucks. Robert holds several Landscape Construction-related certifications, including irrigation maintenance and pesticide applications. He is also

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Council Election June 2018



Are you interested in running for Town Council? Do you have an interest in civic issues? The next election to fill three Council seats (two 4-year terms, and one 2-year term) will be held on

Tuesday, June 5, 2018. The 4-year terms of Council Members Elizabeth Robbins and Rupert Russell will expire at that time. The remaining 2-year term of office seat vacated by Katie Hoertkorn and held by Council Member Julie McMillan, will also be put to the voters. Anyone running for Council must designate which term (4-year or 2-year) they are filing for.

To qualify to run for Council, you must be a Ross resident and a registered voter. The filing period for Council candidates begins on **February 12, 2018 and extends through March 9, 2018**. If any of the incumbents *do not* file for re-election by March 9th, the filing date is extended to Wednesday, March 14th.

If you are interested in running for a Council seat or have any questions regarding the process, please contact Town Clerk Linda Lopez at (415) 453-1453 ext. 105 or via email at llopez@townofross.org. An appointment with the Town Clerk is necessary in order to obtain the required nomination papers that must be completed as part of the nomination process.

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the January Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [January 11th meeting page](#). The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the February 8, 2018 Council meeting.

Address: 205 Lagunitas Road

Applicant: Lagunitas Country Club

Council Action: Approved

Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Kuhl recused)



(By Gary Scales, Moya Library-Ross Historical Society)

The Marin County Fair in Ross

In the 1950s, one of summer's highlights for all young boys and girls who lived in Ross was the Marin Art & Garden Fair, usually coinciding with the Fourth of July. Boys delighted in the (then not so illegal) continuous explosion of firecrackers, bottle rockets, and piercing sounds of the Piccolo Pete's that filled the Ross Valley. And then to have a County Fair in our own Town, well, it was almost too much of a good thing.



In August 1945, the newly incorporated Marin Art & Garden Center (MAGC) completed the purchase of the eleven-plus acres of the Kittle property. The family home, once the largest residence in Ross, had been severely damaged by fire in 1931 and the structure was torn down the following year. All that remained was the barn, which became home to the Ross Valley Players and the vacant octagon house, sorely in need of repair. The grounds were unkempt and in a state of neglect.

The Center now had to maintain the grounds and repay the \$25,000 dollars it had borrowed from

Caroline Livermore to close the deal. Unquestionably the largest fundraising event and one that boosted the center's profile throughout the County was the annual fair. The "Fiesta" held in 1945 was the seed of the fairs held thereafter. In 1947, the Center began to sponsor what they initially termed the Marin Art and Flower Show. The show brought together not only garden clubs, but commercial exhibitors, landscape architects, and outdoor sculpture displays. Even for us young boys, the man-made ponds, splashing fountains and tens of thousands of arranged flowers were a spectacular, breathtaking sight.



But things got even better for us kids. Hot dog stands, soft drinks, cotton candy and popcorn vendors became part of the scene, soon to be followed by pony-rides, shooting galleries, spinning

teacups, and finally, the ultimate, a huge Ferris Wheel. Our hard-earned money from cutting lawns and washing cars quickly flowed into the MAGC coffers.

The works of Marin County artists, weavers and pottery makers were on display and for sale. Adults also were entertained by singers and dancers. Volunteer groups offered home-made delicacies and beer and wine concessions soon appeared. Each night, a concert was performed with a full orchestra. It became a magical place on a warm summer evening, sparkling lights in the trees and music filling the grounds.

By the 1950s the event, now known as the County Fair, was largely underwritten by the Board of Supervisors and a grant from the State Fair Board. While not widely known, the money came almost entirely from a tax levied on horse race betting in California. Eventually the Center received over \$15,000 per year in rent. This windfall carried much of the financial overhead.

For 25 years the Marin Art & Garden Center became the fairgrounds for the County. Finally, the Town and the Center were simply overwhelmed by the Fair's success. Traffic in the Ross Valley moved at a snail's pace the entire long weekend. Parking was impossible and the Fair could not accommodate the growing number of exhibitors and vendors, nor multitude of visitors that came from the entire Bay Area. The Fair moved to the Civic Center in 1971, thus ending over two decades of the Marin County Fair in Ross.





RECREATION NEWS

For the 2017-2018 school year, Ross Recreation has developed several new programs that have been well received by Ross School students. In the Fall program, a ten week Hip Hop dance workshop was held in the Ross gym. The program included instruction in rhythm, choreography, precise footwork,



upper body strength, stage presence, and the history of Hip Hop culture. The workshop was based in dance culture and developmental anatomy. It included styles of house dance, locking, popping, and funk developed in the 1970's. A balance of precision and respect was infused with freedom and personal expression, to foster the dancers confidence. The workshop culminated in a performance for parents and friends.



The winter program has several new programs for all ages. "Art with Casey" is an introductory course for young artists. Each week is devoted to a new medium and a new themed project. Beginning with

graphite blocks and sticks, students will be developing their eye by sketching from life. The class will explore working with charcoal in creating portraits of their classmates. With a focus on developing skill sets, creative minds eye, and fun, this class looks to encourage all young Picassos!

A brand new coding and game design course is beginning this week. Students will use the program Multimedia Fusion to create their own 2D Platform game. Levels will be fully designed from background to characters. The final product will be a fully functional game with lives, and goals. This 10-week class will be taught by Ross School's Media Integration Teacher, Lucas Leonardo.

RECREATION NEWS

Continued

For middle school students, Ross Recreation is offering a new boxing club concentrating on fitness. Using boxing skills and drills to increase your muscular and cardio endurance, this course will strengthen the core, upper and lower body. One-on-one training is provided as time allows. The class emphasizes technique with NO CONTACT involved.



Visit rossrecreation.org to register for programs.

Employee Recognition - *continued from Page 2*

the Storm Water Coordinator and MCSTOPPP representative for the Town, and one of the last of the original MCSTOPPP group. When Robert isn't working at Ross, he's plowing his fields and tending his cows on his farm in Santa Rosa.



Steve Nelson is celebrating his 15th year with the Ross Police Department. Steve is currently a Sergeant with the Department and is a Rangemaster in charge of the firearms qualification program. Steve's law enforcement career began with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department in 1986, followed by the San Anselmo Police Department for 13 years before joining Ross in 2002. He was promoted to Police Sergeant in 2009. At Ross, Steve helps the Chief plan events such as the 4th of July Parade and Halloween street closure. He is in charge of reporting the Department crime statistics to the State and maintenance of the Police fleet.

Thank you Robert and Steve! The Town appreciates all that you do! ■

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2018 - Happy New Year!

Jan 1	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for New Year's Day
Jan 8	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 11	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 15	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 23	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

FEBRUARY 2018

Feb 5	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Feb 8	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Feb 10	5:00-10	pm	Ross Auxiliary Winter Dinner, Marin Art & Garden Center
Feb 12-Mar 9	--	--	Filing Period for June 2018 Election Town Council Candidates
Feb 15	9:00	am	Special Council Meeting Annual Workshop, Livermore Room, MAGC
Feb 19	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Presidents Day
Feb 27	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

MARCH 2018

Mar 5	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 8	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 27	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

CONTACT US

Administration	415.453.1453 x105	Public Works Director	415.453.1453 x115
Building & Public Works	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



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

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