

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 | Issue 7 | July 2018

Mayor's Corner



Beach Kuhl
Mayor

First things first: Thanks to Mike Armstrong and his Ross Recreation staff for organizing another fabulous July Fourth celebration. We had a combination of a patriotic display in the parade and a great social event at the picnic with home grown musical entertainment.

As we begin a new fiscal year, we need to thank last year's mayor, Elizabeth Robbins, for the hard work she put in. Elizabeth demonstrated how much she cares about our town and its residents. We look forward to benefiting from her skills as she continues to serve as a Council member.

Looking to the future, here are some of

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Are You Ready for Fire Season?

As we enter the height of California's wildfire season, Ross Valley Fire Department and FIREsafe MARIN remind all Ross residents that every home in Ross is potentially at risk of wildfire. In order to protect our families, homes, and community, it is necessary to create "Defensible Space". Ross Valley firefighters are actively inspecting properties to identify hazards and provide wildfire safety education to Ross residents. Even if you don't receive a Wildfire Hazard Notice, you are required to maintain Defensible Space. Learn more at: www.rossvalleyfire.org/defensible-space-inspections.

Create Defensible Space

Defensible Space is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. It's the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surround it. Defensible Space is a clean and well maintained area, free of dead vegetation and highly flammable plants and materials, that will slow or stop the spread of wildfire and protect your home from catching fire from embers, direct flame contact, or radiant heat. Defensible Space is also important to help protect firefighters when they are defending your home.



Creating an area of Defensible Space does NOT mean you need to remove your landscaping or create a ring of bare dirt around your home. Through proper planning, you can have both a beautiful landscape and a fire safe landscape.

In addition to Defensible Space around your home, it is equally important to clear flammable vegetation adjacent to roads and driveways, 10' horizontally and 14' vertically.

Learn more: www.firesafemarin.org/defensible-space

Choose Fire Resistant vs Fire Prone Plants

Fire-safe landscaping uses fire-resistant plants that are strategically planted to resist the spread of fire to your home. Fire resistant plants are great in Marin because they are often drought tolerant, too. Some plants

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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 Town's website [July 12th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the August 9, 2018 Council meeting.

Address: 2 Hillgirt Avenue
Applicant: Mike & Diana Werner
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-2 (Robbins recused/
Russell absent)

Address: 14 Norwood Avenue
Applicant: Mark & Molly Gamble
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-2 (Robbins recused/
Russell absent)

Address: 7 Thomas Court
Applicant: William & Josefa Buckingham
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Russell absent)

Fire Season - Are you Ready?

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burn readily and should be removed or avoided at any cost. Many plants are particularly susceptible to fire. Some plants, such as juniper, bamboo, and pampas grass ignite readily and burn intensely, and should be removed if present in a home's Defensible Space zone or close to roads and driveways.

A list of fire resistant and fire prone plants is available at www.firesafemarin.org/plants.

Fire Resistant Construction

Homes ignite from contact with flames or embers. Flying embers can destroy homes up to a mile ahead of a wildfire. Homeowners should "harden" their homes long before a fire starts. A wildfire-safe home must be resistant to ignition from wind-blown embers. Even if the flames never reach your home, it must be able to withstand exposure to millions of tiny embers that can be carried a mile or more in front of a wildfire. ■ (To read the full text of this article, go to <https://townofross.org/police/page/fire-season-are-you-ready> on the Town's website.)

Council News



Council Members Elizabeth Robbins and Julie McMillan were sworn into office to begin their new four-year term as Council members. This is Council Member Robbins' second term in office and Council Member McMillan's first term. Council member Rupert Russell was unable to attend the meeting and will be sworn in at a later date to serve a two-year term filling the seat vacated by Katie Hoertkorn.



Mayor Kuhl recognized former Mayor Elizabeth Robbins and thanked her for her service as mayor, and presented her with a commemorative gift.



PG&E Street Light Pilot Program

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) has offered to upgrade the Town's conventional street lights to new LED technology. The purpose of the program is to save energy and reduce greenhouse gases. In addition, adequate street housing is an essential safety feature for vehicle and pedestrian travel at night. PG&E has identified 206 street lights throughout Town as being eligible at no cost for the standard LED installation. Energy cost savings to the Town is estimated at \$7,000 annually, and the long 20-year life of LED street lights will reduce outage time and maintenance calls. Ross is one of the last municipalities within PG&E's jurisdiction to not have LED street lights.

Prior to full implementation, staff requested a pilot program with the installation of eight LED street lights in Town on a trial basis. The trial is for five lights in the Winship/Garden/Wellington residential area, and three lights to be located at the easternmost end of Lagunitas Rd. The two different locations were selected to evaluate lighting levels for different neighborhood scenarios. The pilot program will be installed the week of July 16th. Residents will have a few weeks to provide comments to Town staff. Your input will assist the Town in determining how to best proceed with the street lighting. Please send any comments to Richard Simonitch at rsimonitch@townofross.org or 453-1453 x115.



AGE Friendly Communities

Population aging is one of the biggest social transformations in the 21st century. Between 2000 and 2050, the world's population over age 60 will double from about 11% to 22% to become nearly 2 billion people. 395 million will be over the age of 80. In Marin, the population over age 60 is already 27% and projected to account for 34% of the population by 2030. At the July Council meeting, Marin County Commission on Aging commissioners Teri Dowling, Jody Timms, and Cynthia Seymour presented information to the Council about becoming an Age Friendly community in Marin.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines an age-friendly community as one that is inclusive, accessible and promotes active aging. Such a community is one that works for residents of every age and ability and pays attention to the elements that make for a livable community. These eight elements/domains are: adequate housing, transportation, safe outdoor space and buildings, opportunities for social participation, respect and social inclusion, access to health and social services, and opportunities for civic engagement and participation, with inclusion and respect for all. The American Association of Retired Person (AARP) Network of Age-Friendly Communities is an affiliate of the WHO's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Becoming age-friendly requires a community to first evaluate its status in the eight elements/domains identified above. A planning process is undertaken which results in a three-year Strategic Plan, setting social, economic and environmental goals to optimize the health and well being of older adults.

Emergency Services Online Resources – Be Prepared!

The Town of Ross maintains extensive online resources to assist residents with preparation for emergencies such as flooding, earthquakes, wildfires, and even extreme heat. All residents are urged to become familiar with these resources, which are located on the Town's website: <https://townofross.org/emergencyservices/page/community-preparedness>.

RECREATION NEWS

The Ross Preschool graduated fifteen students in June who will be entering kindergarten next Fall. Ross Recreation bids a fond farewell to the preschool as the program has been transferred to a non profit run by the Preschool Director, David Hughes. David will assume the operation of the Ross Preschool on August 1st. The Ross Preschool is a play based environmental learning program with an emphasis on project based learning and development of collaborative skills. The outdoor area of the school was redesigned to emphasize natural play and outdoor education. Congratulations to the graduates and a big thank you to the teachers and staff who helped create an incredible learning environment for the students.



2018 Ross Preschool Graduation

This year, Ross Recreation is offering sport specific camps and clinics during August including girls basketball, girls field hockey and boys and girls lacrosse. For more information visit www.rossrecreation.org.

2018 Roadway Rehabilitation Project Starting Soon

Wellington Avenue from Garden Road to Baywood Avenue and the entire length of Fallen Leaf Avenue are scheduled to receive major repairs and new asphalt resurfacing beginning in a few weeks and continuing through August 2018. New accessible ramps and a concrete valley gutter at Garden Road/Wellington Avenue intersection are also planned. At the same time, individual residents along Wellington Avenue will have the opportunity to have their non-compliant sidewalks repaired by the contractor and reimburse the Town, or they can choose to repair the sidewalks at their own expense.



ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2018

Jul 4	11:00	am	Annual Ross 4th of July Parade and Celebration, Ross Common
Jul 4	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Independence Day
Jul 9	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Jul 12	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Jul 24	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

AUGUST 2018

Aug 6	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Aug 9	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Aug 28	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sep 3	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Labor Day
Sep 10	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Sep 13	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Sep 25	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Sep 28	5:30	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 28-Aug 9	MAGC Summer Concert Series, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

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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