

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 | Issue 10 | October 2018

Mayor's Corner



Beach Kuhl
Mayor

As we enjoy our beautiful Fall weather, we can both look back a little and forward a lot. Looking back, we need to thank our Recreation Manager, Mike Armstrong, and his staff for another wonderful

town dinner. The music of Bob Scott All Stars and the singing of two acappella groups from Branson School provided great entertainment. The evening gathering of over 400 Ross residents had a chance to visit with others, some of whom they see frequently and some infrequently. Our younger folks seemed to enjoy cavorting on the Commons even after darkness fell. This event seems to be settling in as a traditional gathering for the Town.

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Annual Town Dinner Highlights

This year's annual Town Dinner held Friday, September 28th was another great success. The event drew over 400 Ross residents to wine and dine with their neighbors under the trees on the Ross Common,



and a good time was had by all. This festive event has been going on since 2005, and has been a treasured Town tradition.

Thank you to all who helped make this annual event possible. Major thanks as always goes to Mike Armstrong and his team (Maya Talmage, Sue Talmage) in the Recreation Department.



Mike and his staff work very hard to make sure this event goes off flawlessly, and we greatly appreciate all their efforts! A special thanks also to the Ross Police Department, Café Ross, Bob Scott All Star Band, Branson School acapella groups, Town Council and Town Manager. Photos are courtesy of Mike Armstrong and Joe Chinn. Enjoy more photos on page 4.

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Looking ahead, the Army Corps of Engineers is to issue their draft environmental impact report for the Corte Madera Creek flood control project on October 12. The period to comment on the adequacy of this report will be relatively short (45 days). We plan to have a special Council meeting on October 17th at 6:00 pm as well as public outreach meetings sponsored by the County here at Town Hall on October 23rd, 24th, and 25th. The Town Council will likely determine the formal comment to be submitted at our November 8th Council meeting. The Ross Valley Sanitary District is about to begin another phase of its pipe replacement project involving work on Shady Lane (again) and on Ross Common park. The contractor has assured us that the Halloween party on Shady Lane will not be impacted.

We have also learned that a group of residents are in the process of organizing to seek undergrounding of utilities on their streets. Currently it looks like the activity will be centered on Glenwood Avenue and upper Fernhill Avenue with possible extensions to Lagunitas Road. While this activity is largely financed by the involved residents, it does require Town involvement and approval.



Finally, we plan to continue looking at improving plans for disaster readiness and responses, both by the Town and at the individual residence level. We will continue to keep everyone advised as these various efforts progress. ■

New Town Attorney

At their September meeting, the Council approved the contract appointment of new Town Attorney Benjamin Stock. Ben Stock is a member of the public law firm Burke, Williams & Sorensen, and is located in the firm's San Rafael office. He received his J.D. from U.C. Hastings, and B.A. in Environmental Science from U.C. Berkeley. Ben has over 18 years of experience with land use and planning matters, including advising public agencies on CEQA compliance, land use approvals, and successfully defending those decisions in court. He currently serves as the Town Attorney for the Town of Tiburon, assistant City Attorney for the City of Healdsburg, and General Counsel to multiple public entities throughout the Bay Area. Ben will join Ross effective October 15th.



Benjamin Stock



The Council and staff recognized and thanked outgoing Town Attorney Greg Stepanicich, for seven years of excellent service to Ross. Mr. Stepanicich will be retiring in the coming year and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

He and his colleagues at Richards Watson Gershon, have served Ross well over the years and will be missed.

November 2018 Election RVPA Parcel Tax

The deadline to register to vote in the November 6th election is Monday, October 22, 2018. To register to vote, go to <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>.

On the ballot this November, the Town of Ross has Measure P - the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority (RVPA) Special Tax for Paramedic Services. Measure P ballot language reads as follows:

"Shall the measure continuing the special tax for paramedic services for four years in the amount of \$79.50 in the first year and increasing \$4 annually to a maximum of \$91.50 per taxable living unit, or per 1,500 square feet of structure on a developed parcel in non-residential use, which will annually raise approximately \$81,500 each year, and increasing the appropriations limit by the amount of said tax be adopted?"



The RVPA is an 8-member joint powers authority established in 1982 to deliver Fire Department paramedic services and ambulance transport services in the Ross Valley. The primary funding mechanism for the RVPA is the special tax. Every four years, residents vote to fund the tax for a four-year period. The current tax will expire on June 30, 2019.

PLANNING RESULTS

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

Address: 58 Shady Lane
Applicant: Richard & Jennifer Kaufman
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Robbins recused)

Address: 34 Baywood Avenue
Applicant: John Rogers & Sue Schwarzgruber
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (McMillan recused)

Address: 45 Laurel Grove Avenue
Applicant: Amy Skewes-Cox & Robert Twiss
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Updated



The Council voted to adopt the 2018 amendments to the 2010 Town of Ross Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan designates a system of existing and proposed routes for non-motorized traffic to schools and significant destinations in Town as well as links between Ross



and neighboring communities. The 2018 amendments represent the first update to the Plan since its adoption in July, 2010. The amendments were developed by staff based on the information gathered from a Townwide survey conducted in May 2018 and from the August 9, 2018 public hearing. The Council selected from a list of priority projects identified by staff after consideration of overall feasibility, cost impacts, and other planning criteria. The priorities identified by the Council emphasize pedestrian access and safety, which included the extension of the Lagunitas walking path to Glenwood avenue, construction of new walkways on Fernhill and Laurel Grove, and sidewalk gap-closures on Poplar and Redwood. The adoption of the amended Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is essential for pursuing grant funding for the construction of these facilities.

HALLOWEEN EVENTS



Annual Halloween Window Painting
Friday, October 26, 2:45 pm - 5:00 pm
in Downtown Ross

Bring your creativity. All paint and materials will be supplied by Gabriella Drake of Art Abloom Studio & Gallery. For more information, contact Gaby Drake at (415) 256-1112, or Bonnie Bibas at (239) 287-1414.

Wednesday, October 31, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Halloween Night - Shady Lane Road Closure
for annual Trick or Treaters

Measure J - Tam Union High School Tax

A November ballot measure that relates to education services for Ross school children is Measure J – the Tamalpais Union High School District Special Parcel Tax which includes Redwood High School. Measure J ballot language reads as follows:

"To protect high quality education with local funding that cannot be taken by the State, shall Tamalpais Union High School District attract and retain highly qualified teachers, counselors and staff; provide excellent science, technology, engineering, math, reading/writing instruction; protect art/music programs; and maintain small class sizes by levying \$149 per parcel, providing \$5.1 million annually for 4 years, with senior exemptions, annual cost of living adjustments, independent citizens' oversight and all funds for local high school students?"

If voters approve this Measure, the Tamalpais Union High School District will be authorized to levy a special parcel tax for a period of four years beginning on November 7, 2018 to fund high school education services and programs. The Measure states that the special parcel tax will be \$149 plus an annual cost of living adjustment of 3%.



RECREATION NEWS

The Ross Recreation youth soccer program began playing games on Saturday, October 6 at Ross Common. The youth soccer program has 32 boys and girls teams consisting of kindergarten through second grade. Emphasis is on skill development, sportsmanship in a recreational setting. The program will continue through Saturday, November 17.



Boys Grade 1-2 game Dynamo (Red) vs Fire (Silver)



Kindergarten Girls team "Stars"

Registration for the Ross Recreation Winter program will begin in early November. Registration is closed for the Ross Recreation Youth Basketball Program. Basketball practices and games will commence in early January.

Please visit www.rossrecreation.org to register for Ross Recreation programs.

Town Dinner Photos



ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2018

Oct 11	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 16	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall <i>(note special date)</i>
Oct 17	6:00	pm	Special Council Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 23	6:00	pm	County Flood Control Community Workshop, Ross Town Hall
Oct 24	10:00	am	County Flood Control Community Workshop, Ross Town Hall
Oct 25	6:00	pm	County Flood Control Community Workshop, Ross Town Hall
Oct 26	2:45-5	pm	Halloween Window Painting, Downtown Ross <i>(see Page 3 for details)</i>
Oct 31	5:00-9	pm	Halloween Night - Shady Lane Road Closure

NOVEMBER 2018

Nov 5	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 8	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 12	--	--	Town Hall Offices closed for Veterans Day
Nov 22-23	--	--	Town Hall Offices closed for Thanksgiving
Nov 27	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

DECEMBER 2018

Dec 10	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 13	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 18	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 24-Jan 1	--	--	Town Hall Offices closed for the holidays

RECURRING EVENT - Thursdays thru October, Ross Farm Stand, 11:30-7:30 pm, Ross Common

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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