

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 | Issue 8 | August 2021

### Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Robbins  
Mayor

The Council began discussions about how the Ross Common should be used. The Town is preparing a plan that will identify repairs and improvements that can be made now, and that will serve as a guide to future projects. Repairs and improvements could include repaving the Common's pathways, replanting the perimeter hedge, and adding seating areas.

Ross residents recently received an email questionnaire asking for input to help guide the Improvement Plan. In addition to comments about specific improvements, the Town received numerous comments about how the Common should be used. Many of these comments applied to use of the area referred to as

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### Ross Common Landscape Plan Discussed

The Ross Common is an important amenity for our community, and it is overdue for maintenance. The Town is preparing a plan to rehabilitate and improve the landscaping and connectivity of the park. The plan will consider the various users of the space, the relationship to adjacent places (Downtown, the Post Office, pedestrian routes and bikeways, and Ross School), and the Common's connection to the greater community. The plan will include actionable and implementable improvements for the immediate term as well as ideas that can be phased over time. The purpose of the plan will be to identify repairs and improvements that can be made right away and with community input and guide future improvements as additional funding sources become available.



The Town hosted an online questionnaire from July 22 to August 5 to gather community feedback and engage Ross residents in the planning process. The questionnaire asked how residents get to the Common, how they use it, what they like about it, and how it can be improved. An impressive 383 responses were received and the important takeaway from responses was that the Common is a cherished central gathering place for the Ross community. Although respondents are largely satisfied with the Common as is, the biggest issues included lack of restrooms and seating options, impacts from dogs, and the condition of vegetation. Relatedly, the most common desired amenities included bathrooms, a dedicated area for dogs, more seating and picnic areas, and gaming areas.

The Town has partnered with landscape architects Gates + Associates to gather community feedback and prepare the improvement plan. Last night, the firm presented improvement and amenity possibilities to the Council that included an improved loop trail, more seating and picnic areas, a restroom, a green edge element, plaza spaces, a games area, a dog park, and an enhanced crosswalk with traffic calming in front of the post office. Following public comment and Council discussion, the Council provided direction and requested additional information on various elements that had been presented. Gates and Town staff will return to the Council with a draft plan in the fall. If anyone would like more information on the project, please contact Patrick Streeter at [pstreet-er@townofross.org](mailto:pstreet-er@townofross.org).



## Mayor's Corner - continued from Page 1

"the grove," the shaded grassy corner bordered by Ross School, Lagunitas Avenue, and Ross Common (the street).

It was pointed out that there are multiple user groups that enjoy the grove, including Ross school students; children and adults participating in Ross Recreation programs and informal recreation; adults exercising dogs; families picnicking; residents attending Town events including the July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic, the Town Dinner, and the December tree lighting.



Numerous residents raised concerns that if dogs use the grove area, then the other user groups are essentially excluded because of safety and sanitary concerns, specifically dogs running off-leash and residual dog waste. Dogs trample the grass in the grove; Town staff can't keep the area clean and green. No other towns have dog parks that double as picnic/play areas. Schools don't have unfenced dog parks adjacent to classrooms or entrances. However, many residents who use the grove area to exercise dogs felt differently, commenting that the grove area is clean and safe and that use by dogs doesn't interfere with use by other groups.

One suggestion was to allow unleashed dogs in another Town location, such as the grassy area next to the post office, or Kittle Park (the area opposite Town Hall). This could provide a safe, though slightly smaller, area for exercising dogs, and would solve the problem of dog waste on the Common. Benches, shade, and fencing could be added to another site.

The Common Improvement plan provides an ideal opportunity for all residents to discuss how the Common should be used. ■

## Fun Town Events - Coming Soon - Save the Date!

### LIVE ON THE COMMON - MUSIC & OUTDOOR DINING Friday, August 27 & Saturday, August 28, 2021

Celebrate summer with your neighbors at this exciting Town of Ross community event, proudly co-sponsored by Ross Property Owners' Association and Ross Auxiliary. Enjoy TWO nights of live music on the outdoor stage with your fellow community members on the Common. Plus, we'll have kids activities and food trucks with amazing offerings for purchase on Ross Common near Redwood in addition to Ross's downtown food purveyors. Outdoor dining on Redwood Drive will open on Friday, August 27th at 4:00 PM and remain open until Saturday, August 28th at 8:30 PM. Music performances are 5:30 to 8:30 PM each night. **August 27th:** Jon Chi Band; **August 28th:** Tim Weed & Friends.

Redwood Drive (at Ross Common) will be closed starting at 3:30 PM on Friday, August 27th to allow for tables with chairs in the street for dining spaced appropriately to comply with COVID-19 health guidelines. Other seating options include the new picnic tables on the Common near Redwood Drive. You can also bring your own food and beverage and spread out with a picnic blanket on the grass while enjoying the live music performances on stage. For more information, go to <https://www.townofross.org/community/page/ross-live-common>.

### ANNUAL ROSS TOWN DINNER Friday, September 24, 2021, 5:30-9:00 PM, Ross Common

This beloved community event is returning. Enjoy an evening of dining potluck style with your neighbors on the Ross Common. The Bob Scott All-Star Band returns to play jazz and R&B to compliment the evening. Bring your own picnic and beverage. We provide tables, linens, chairs and live music. More details coming soon.

**LIVE**  
on the Common

Free Music  
in Ross Common

Fri, Aug. 27 | 5:30-8:30pm  
Jon Chi Band  
(Americana & Psychedelic Rock)

Sat, Aug. 28 | 5:30-8:30pm  
Tim Weed & Friends  
(American Rock, R&B, Blues)

Co-sponsored by:  
TOWN OF ROSS  
ROSS AUXILIARY

Plus:  
Food Trucks,  
Kids' Activities & More!  
More info: townofross.org

## PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the August Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [August 12th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the September 9, 2021 Council meeting.

**Address: 70 Wellington Avenue**  
**Owner: Ashley Mangus & Nick Ghirardelli**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Brekhus recused)**

## 2021 Pavement Rehabilitation Project

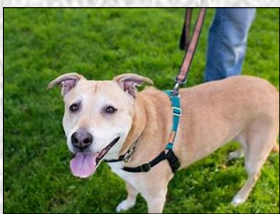


Town Council awarded the contract for the 2021 Pavement Rehabilitation Project to Maggiora & Ghilotti, Inc. for \$481,752, over 10% lower than the Engineer's estimate of \$540,000. The project consists of asphalt grind and overlay, subgrade treatments, and restriping on Redwood Drive, Ross Common, and the post office parking lot, a micro-surfacing slurry on El Camino Bueno, and some visibility/safety enhancements on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. The selection of these streets for pavement rehabilitation treatment are identified in the Town's adopted 5-year Capital Improvement Program for 2021-2022. Maggiora & Ghilotti was the sole bidder for the project. Staff recommended that their bid be considered reasonable and accurate with respect to the Engineer's estimate, the current time of year, escalating construction costs, and bidding climate.



Come meet Police Chief Raffaello "Ralph" Pata, who is hosting Coffee with the Chief in downtown Ross on Friday, August 13 from 10:00-12:00 noon at Crown & Crumpet.

## Council Removes Temporary Prohibition of Dogs on Common



The Council voted to remove the temporary ban of the public and dogs upon the Ross Common that had been in place since August 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The temporary prohibition allowed

the Ross School to utilize the Common for various activities throughout the school year. Additionally, Ross Recreation was able to utilize the grove area to facilitate social distancing during the 2020-21 school year for afterschool and summer programs which concluded in the past week. With the change, the public would be allowed again on the grove portion of the Common during School days and hours, and dogs would also be allowed back in this area. Dogs are still prohibited from the Common playing field at any time, whether leashed or unleashed, under Ross Municipal Code Section [8.04.161\(a\)](#).



Every Drop Counts

Drought is here. Save water.

## Marin is in a Severe Drought: Save Water

With reservoir levels at historic lows, Marin Water's board of directors declared a water shortage emergency and adopted mandatory water use restrictions. The goal of the restrictions is to achieve a 40 percent reduction in water use districtwide.

- Spray irrigation is limited to one day a week. Each community has a designated watering day:
  - **Monday:** Ross, Tiburon, Belvedere, San Geronimo, Forest Knolls, Lagunitas
  - **Tuesday:** San Rafael, unincorporated areas in County
  - **Wednesday:** San Quentin, Sausalito, Corte Madera, San Anselmo
  - **Thursday:** Mill Valley
  - **Friday:** Woodacre, Larkspur, Fairfax, Greenbrae, Kentfield
  - **Saturday & Sunday:** No spray irrigation
- Drip irrigation is limited to any two days per week.
- We recommend turning off your irrigation system and spot watering by hand, only when necessary.
- For a full list of restrictions, visit the [Water Rules](#) page.

## Fire-Smart Landscaping Tip



When it comes to water, use these important fire-smart landscape strategies:

- Remove dead plants and debris.
- Keep a vigilant eye on plants that may be suffering from drought. If too drought damaged, a plant may not recover and will need to be removed.
- Within 5 feet of the perimeter of structures on your property, move wood mulch or foundation plants to other locations on the property.
- Keep your [irrigation system](#) in good condition to optimize water distribution to plants.
- Hand watering before 9 am when it's cool is an option when irrigation is not optimized and water is restricted.
- Limit replacement plantings to climate appropriate plants such as California native species, and plants native to Mediterranean summer dry climates.
- Do not wet down your property on Red Flag warning days. Water as normal.
- Clearly mark all emergency (and other) water sources.
- Create easy firefighter access to your closest emergency water source and provide extra hoses.

## AGE FRIENDLY CORNER

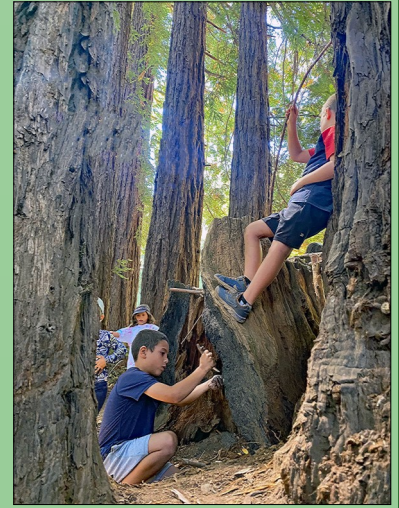
### *Tips to live long and well in Ross*

#### **Emergency Preparedness for Older Adults-**

Planning for power outages, fires and evacuations is even more important for those with mobility, vision, hearing or health issues, caretakers or pets. We are all expected to develop our own plans for emergencies. These are even more important when our first responders are too busy to come to our homes. One of our best local resources for information is the **Ready Marin** website at <https://readymarin.org/get-ready/readyseniors/>.

## RECREATION NEWS

Our summer camps are coming to an end and it has been such a blast. There was so much laughter, creativity, exploration and activity for the past few months and it was a breath of fresh air. Thank you to the families that helped us keep the community safe by following the COVID guidelines. A few highlights from summer include the Sporty Girl talent shows and amazing tie dye creations; Top Gun bike rides and epic water balloon fights; Holly Hoppin' kids exploring nature and taking a dip in the last remaining water holes, and SO much more! We hope that all who participated had a blast and we look forward to seeing you back next summer!



As we move into fall, we are excited to bring back some programs that we weren't able to have last year. Our Kids Club after care program will return and be available to K-5<sup>th</sup> Ross School students, Mon-Thurs (2-5pm). You will have the option to sign up 1-4 days of the week. We will also have a Friday option with Holly Salamun running her "Friday FUNday!" program that will start at the school and pick up will be at Phoenix Lake (weather permitting).

In addition to the aftercare, we will have the return of Fall Soccer with Coach Schafer for K-2<sup>nd</sup> and Pre-K Soccer with Coach Dan. Other classes offered this fall include Science, Chess, Hip Hop, Ballet, Lacrosse, Tennis (youth & adult), and Early Release Sports with Sandrick. Please see our website at <https://www.rossrecreation.org/> for a full list of classes, and contact us if you have any questions.



We hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing summer break and look forward to seeing you back on campus!

# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## AUGUST 2021

|           |              |  |
|-----------|--------------|--|
| Aug 12    | 6:00 pm      | Council Meeting ( <i>virtual meeting</i> )   |
| Aug 13    | 10:00 am     | Coffee with the Chief, Crown & Crumpet, Downtown Ross  |
| Aug 19    | 5:00-7 pm    | MAGC Summer Concert in the Garden - visit <a href="http://www.maringarden.org">www.maringarden.org</a> |
| Aug 27-28 | 4:00-8:30 pm | Live on the Common Music and Dining, Downtown Ross ( <i>see Page 2</i> )                               |

## SEPTEMBER 2021

|        |            |  |
|--------|------------|--|
| Sep 5  | 9-11:00 am | Pixie Park Open House, Marin Art & Garden Center   |
| Sep 6  | -- --      | Town Hall offices closed for Labor Day   |
| Sep 8  | 7:00 pm    | Ross Property Owners Assn ( <i>for Zoom link, contact <a href="mailto:jeffkoblick@comcast.net">jeffkoblick@comcast.net</a></i> ) |
| Sep 9  | 6:00 pm    | Council Meeting ( <i>virtual meeting</i> )   |
| Sep 21 | 7:00 pm    | Advisory Design Review Group Meeting ( <i>virtual meeting</i> )  |
| Sep 24 | 5:30-9 pm  | Town Dinner, Ross Common   |

## OCTOBER 2021

|        |         |  |
|--------|---------|--|
| Oct 11 | 7:00 pm | Ross Property Owners Assn ( <i>for Zoom link, contact <a href="mailto:jeffkoblick@comcast.net">jeffkoblick@comcast.net</a></i> ) |
| Oct 14 | 6:00 pm | Council Meeting  |
| Oct 19 | 7:00 pm | Advisory Design Review Group Meeting   |

## CONTACT US

|  |                   |   |                      |
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| Building Department<br>- <a href="mailto:breher@townofross.org">breher@townofross.org</a>              | 415-453-1453 x106 | Public Works Director<br>- <a href="mailto:rsimonitch@townofross.org">rsimonitch@townofross.org</a>   | 415-453-1453 x115    |
| Bldg Inspection Hotline<br>- <a href="mailto:erobbe@townofross.org">erobbe@townofross.org</a>          | 415-453-1453 x170 | Recreation Department<br>- <a href="mailto:rossrec@rossrecreation.org">rossrec@rossrecreation.org</a> | 415-453-6020         |
| Planning/Building Director<br>- <a href="mailto:pstreeter@townofross.org">pstreeter@townofross.org</a> | 415-453-1453 x121 | Ross Valley Fire Dept   | 415-258-4686         |
| Planner<br>- <a href="mailto:mweintraub@townofross.org">mweintraub@townofross.org</a>                  | 415-453-1453 x116 | Town Manager<br>- <a href="mailto:jchinn@townofross.org">jchinn@townofross.org</a>                    | 415-453-1453 x107    |

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Visit us at [www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org)



Email

We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email

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