

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 | Issue 2 | February 2021

Mayor's Corner



Julie McMillan
Mayor

Last night we began considering the [Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project, Phase I Draft Environmental Impact Report](#). Its primary goal is to enhance and improve

Corte Madera Creek by reducing the frequency and severity of flooding, and protecting life and property. The proposed project causes one significant and unavoidable impact in Frederick Allen Park, as more than 100 trees would need to be removed. This would impact the visual quality in the Park for about ten years, until new trees could grow to screen views of concrete structures and surrounding buildings. The Report also provides several alternatives. The comment period ends March 17, so we will

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Corte Madera Creek Flood Project DEIR

Town staff presented an overview of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the “Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project, Phase I”.



The proposed project, which extends from the College of Marin all the way to the Lagunitas Bridge, includes the reconstruction of Frederick Allen Park and removal of the wooden fish ladder and portions of the concrete channel between the Ross tennis courts and Post Office parking lot. This new configuration will result in a new “floodplain park” which, according to the project engineers, will provide flood protection benefits, ecosystem restoration, improved fish passage, and recreational enhancements. The Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is the lead agency for the project.

Some residents expressed concerns about the need to remove over 100 trees that would be required to construct the floodplain park in Ross and whether the flood reduction benefits of the floodplain park justify the tree removal. The DEIR identifies the tree removal and the temporary impact on visual quality within Frederick Allen Park as the one significant and unavoidable impact of the project. The project includes planting trees in the park to minimize the impact to visual quality in the initial years, but the impacts would not become less than significant until after approximately 10 years when the landscaping matures and provides cover and visual screening for the park. The project would also include temporary shade structures along the multi-use path which should be removed when the tree canopy is sufficiently established.

Besides the proposed project, the DEIR identifies 4 project alternatives including the “no project” alternative. The remaining 3 alternatives include the fish ladder removal and other project components but provide alternatives for the treatment of Allen Park and other locations where the concrete channel is proposed to be removed. Alternative 1 proposes that Allen Park and the concrete channel remain intact with additional fish resting pools cut into the channel bottom. In this alternative, there

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revisit this item at our March meeting. Residents can email comments to cortemaderacreek@marincounty.org.

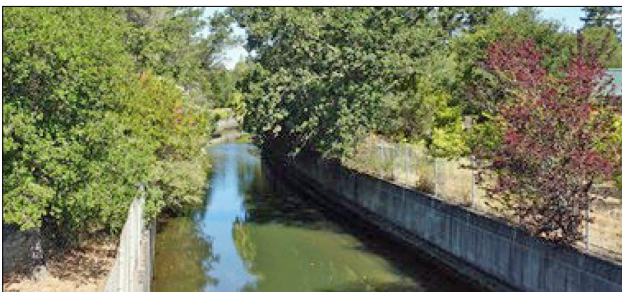
Also in March we will decide which Town facilities to rebuild for fire, police, paramedics and administrative services. You can learn more about these issues by visiting the [Town's facilities page](#). In the meantime, we continue to welcome your comments and questions (please contact Joe Chinn (jchinn@townofross.org), Patrick Streeter (pstreeter@townofross.org) or any Council member). And if you are interested in helping raise funds for a new fire station, please contact Molly Gamble (m.gamble@comcast.net).



In late December a new [Marin Community Wildfire Protection Plan \(CWPP\)](#) was issued (updating the 2016 CWPP), providing guidance and strategies to reduce fire hazard and the risk of catastrophic wildfires. The CWPP outlines mitigation strategies, and provides recommendations to educate and prepare residents. It's not too early to start preparing now for fire season by reducing your home's structural ignitability and managing your defensible space. Lots of helpful tips can be found at [FireSafe Marin](#).

Finally, it is gratifying to know that some residents are beginning to receive COVID-19 vaccinations, signaling a glimmer of light at the end of this very long tunnel. ■

Corte Madera Creek Flood Project DEIR - *continued from Page 1*



would be no construction in Allen Park. Alternative 2 proposes the creation of the floodplain park with a multi-use trail "boardwalk" constructed over the floodplain park but restricts public access to the new natural channel. Alternative 3 resembles the proposed project except this Alternative would use natural stone and rock to replace the concrete retaining walls proposed for Allen Park and other parts of the project.

The 45-day review period for the DEIR began on February 1st and runs until March 17, 2021. Town staff will be preparing a comment letter on the adequacy of the DEIR to the Flood Control District that will be presented in draft form at the March 11 Town Council meeting.

Support Ross Downtown Businesses

On Monday, January 25, the State of California lifted the stay-at-home order that had been in effect since December. This means that our downtown restaurants, which had been limited to take-out service, can once again support outdoor dining. Two recent additions to the outdoor dining scene include a converted parking space (parklet) at Crown & Crummet, 22 Ross Common, and a heated canopy at Marche aux Fleurs, 23 Ross Common. Marin County remains in the most restrictive tier of the State's "Blueprint for a Safer Economy", but as COVID-19 infection rates continue to fall in the County, additional sectors including indoor dining are expected to become available. Please continue to support all of our downtown businesses and restaurants during this challenging time.



Marche aux Fleurs

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the February Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [February 11th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the March 11, 2021 Council meeting.

Address: 51 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard
Owner: Noah Berry
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 10 Fernhill Avenue
Owner: Albert & Julie Stoll
Council Action: Continued to March Meeting
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 92 Laurel Grove Avenue
Owner: Rob & Catherine Hale
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

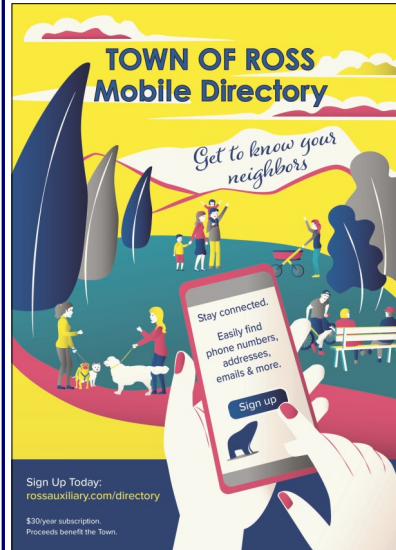
Town Updates Emergency Operations Plan



The Council approved the updated Town of Ross Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) at the February Council meeting. The EOP addresses the Town's planned response

to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural, technological and human caused emergencies or disasters within or affecting Ross. The plan is the principal guide to the Town's response to, management of, and recovery from, real or potential emergencies and disasters occurring within its designated geographic boundaries. The plan conforms with the State's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the federal government's National Incident Management System (NIMS) program elements, enabling eligibility for state and federal disaster assistance and preparedness funding.

ROSS MOBILE DIRECTORY



Thank you to Ross Auxiliary for providing the Town's Mobile Directory for your smartphone, tablet and desktop. It features Ross residents' names, addresses, phone numbers, emails and more. With over 1,000 contacts it's the best way to stay connected with your neighbors. Subscribe today at <https://www.rossauxiliary.com/directory> for \$30/year.

Town Public Safety Facilities

The modernizing of the Town's fire, police, paramedic, and administrative facilities will return to Council for further discussion and action at the March 11th Council meeting. There is a large amount of information on this topic on the Town's website at <https://www.townofross.org/civiccenter>. In the meantime, we welcome comments and questions on this item, which should be sent to [Joe Chinn](#) or [Patrick Streeter](#).

Click on the video link below for a brief tour to see the current state of the Town's public safety building.





Living With Coyotes



The following information on coyotes is provided by the Marin Humane Society and Wild-care. Most of us have seen a coyote at one time or another or heard them at night as they are common in urban areas including Ross. Here are some facts on coyote behavior and how we can coexist peacefully with them.

- Most interactions with coyotes in urban areas result from the presence of a dog, and/or from intentional or unintentional food availability.
- Coyotes are much like our domestic dogs and share similar behaviors. Curiosity and play are often misinterpreted as being bold or aggressive. Coyotes are naturally timid, but may view dogs as a threat or as competitors for territories, and for resources. They defend their mates, their territory, and their pups during breeding or pup rearing season.
- They are usually active at night and prefer to seek out food in the dark, however, it is not uncommon to see them out during the day.
- Coyotes' primary food sources in our cities include rats, gophers, insects, fruit. But human and pet foods (and water) may attract coyotes, so eliminate these attractions to reduce negative encounters.
- Never let your dog chase or play with a coyote.
- In an area where coyotes have been seen, keep your dog closer to you than usual, and keep them under full control (and on leash) at all times.
- Erect fences (or walls) where possible to keep coyotes away and out of your backyard.
- Clear away bushes and dense weeds where rodents, reptiles and insects dwell. The greater part of a coyote's diet consists of these critters, so keeping them away and off your property will help keep the coyote at bay too.
- Make sure your small pets including chickens and ducks are securely sheltered at night.
- Never intentionally feed or befriend a coyote. In Marin, it is illegal to feed wildlife.

If you encounter a coyote that gets too close for comfort or displays a threat, contact the Marin Humane Society at (415) 883-4621. Go to <https://discoverwildcare.org/living-with-coyotes/> for more information.

RECREATION NEWS

An article recently in the Marin IJ talked about the importance of outdoor play for children during the pandemic, or anytime really. It reads; "This winter, in between Zoom calls and the incredible balancing act of pandemic parenting, kids should be nudged outside, however they can and whatever the weather. It's good for their developing bodies, minds and souls and ours, too" (McKinley, Kelly). Our goal at Ross Recreation is to provide this much needed space for your children to be outside, play, run, explore and be with friends. This past year has been a partnership between our department and the families in this community and it has been hard but rewarding. We wouldn't have been able to continue our programs without the dedication of the parents/guardians' commitment to safety and health.



We are wrapping up our winter session and moving into the spring. Spring session registration opens mid-February. Our programs will include Hip Hop with Chelsea, All Sports with Sandrick, Sporty Girls/Lacrosse with Coach Schafer, After-school Enrichment with Holly at Phoenix Lake and much more. We will also have virtual programs running including Chess and Coding. Please see our website for the full list of programs and reach out with any questions or help registering. All of our programs are held outdoors and follow CDC guidelines.

The Ross Recreation team is working on summer camp planning registration which will open in March. The summer programs will be limited to the smaller cohorts of 14 children or fewer (unless the guidelines change), so please sign-up as early as possible!



Visit our website at rossrecreation.org to sign-up for our mailing list by clicking the "Get on the List" link to receive alerts when registration opens for new sessions.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2021

Feb 11	6:00	pm	Council Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
Feb 15	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for President's Day
Feb 23*	6:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>) *note date change
Feb 25	9:00	am	Special Council Meeting - Annual Strategic Workshop (<i>virtual meeting</i>)

MARCH 2021

Mar 8	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Assn (<i>for Zoom invite, contact jeffkoblick@comcast.net</i>)
Mar 11	6:00	pm	Council Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
Mar 16	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)

APRIL 2021

Apr 5	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Assn (<i>for Zoom invite, contact jeffkoblick@comcast.net</i>)
Apr 8	6:00	pm	Council Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
Apr 20	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
Apr 29	9:00	am	Special Council Meeting - Annual Budget Workshop (<i>virtual meeting</i>)

CONTACT US

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

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Visit us at www.townofross.org



Email

We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email

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