

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Robbins
Mayor

The Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority held a community workshop last week to help residents prepare for a wildfire. The risk of fire in Marin is extremely high. Here is a summary of the recommendations:

1. Register for alerts at Alert Marin at <https://www.marinsheriff.org/services/emergency-services/alert-marin>.
2. Plan where you'll go: Plan your route and destination. Practice opening your garage door without power or purchase a battery backup opener. Choose someone outside the area to serve as a contact for your family.
3. Plan what you'll take: Set aside long-

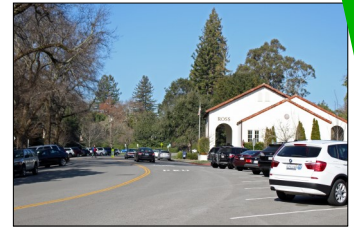
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Council Adopts FYE 2022 Budget

The Town Council passed the Fiscal Year 2021-22 (FYE22) budget last night. The budget is the Town's financial plan for the upcoming year and includes revenues and expenses related to operations and capital improvements. The budget was developed based on the continuing objectives of providing high quality services to the community in an efficient, effective, responsive, and financially responsible manner. The overall budget for all funds is \$10.6 million for FYE22, a return back to pre-COVID pandemic levels.



The budget provides for a small General Fund surplus (revenues in excess of expenses). Over the past six years, the Town has kept expenses below revenues each year even during times such as the COVID-19 pandemic when revenues decreased significantly while also continuing to save additional funds for future capital replacement needs related to modernizing deteriorating and obsolete facilities and continuing to take numerous actions to reduce future pension retirement obligation costs.

The emphasis continues to be to sustain financial responsibility and stability as we continue to support the Town's goals. We continue to move forward by investing in services and facilities for the community in FYE22. The new projects for the year include additional emphasis on maintaining a safe community and improving emergency preparedness as well as enhancing maintenance of Town facilities. The budget also includes projects such as the Town Facilities Master Plan, the Common landscape improvement plan, adding more community events, an Age Friendly Ross Strategic Plan, Climate Action Plan update, downtown visioning including zoning review, participation in the County flood protection project for Corte Madera Creek within Ross, and processing underground utilities districts. The budget includes over \$2 million for improving Town facilities such as: the rehabilitation of the Ross Common, Redwood Drive (from Ross Common to the elbow), the post office parking lot; Ross Common restoration and new wells; Storm Drain Master Plan; and continuation of design and engineering work on the Winship Bridge replacement and Laurel Grove sidewalk extension and pavement rehabilitation.

We strive to provide high quality services to the community in a financially responsible manner. Please contact Town Manager Joe Chinn if you have any questions related to the Town services, finances, or the budget.

sleeved shirts and long pants made of cotton or wool; sturdy shoes/boots; leather gloves - needed to move smoldering branches. Pack a "Go Bag;" include food, water, extra clothes, medicines, first aid kit, flashlight, glasses, contact lenses, sanitary supplies, baby wipes, diapers, phone, laptop, chargers, wallet, extra cash, pet crate, pet food and a battery-powered radio. Bring important documents including passports, birth certificates, insurance policies. Have these ready in one place. Keep a list with the last-minute items to add - wallet, phones, computers, chargers, documents, medicines.



4. On leaving: Close all doors (including garage doors) and windows to prevent embers from blowing in. Leave the door unlocked and garden hoses attached to spigots for firefighters. Move flammable items away from house - patio furniture, jute doormats, BBQs and heaters with propane tanks.
5. Harden your home with fire-resistant roofing, siding and vents. Install dual-pane windows. Replace fences within 5 feet of your dwelling with non-combustible products. Keep roof and gutters clear of debris. Create 5 feet of defensible space immediately around your home: plants should not be adjacent to the house. Cut lower tree limbs. Store firewood away from your house.
6. When Red Flag Warnings are first announced, make sure your car has a full tank of gas, or charge your EV.

For more detailed information, please go to: <https://www.firesafemarin.org/>. ■



COFFEE with the CHIEF

At CROWN & CRUMPET
22 ROSS COMMON

Get to know the new Ross Police Chief Raffaello "Ralph" Pata who will be hosting "Coffee with the Chief" in downtown Ross. The event will take place on a quarterly basis and will rotate to different venues downtown. The next one is scheduled for Friday, August 13 from 10:00-12:00 noon at Crown & Crumpet.



Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Annual Evaluation Report

Town staff presented the 2021 annual evaluation report on progress towards implementation of the adopted 2018 Marin County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MCM LHMP). The Annual Report lists the progress on the implementation of the 2018 MCM LHMP local and regional goals. The MCM LHMP was adopted by the Town on January 10, 2019 and evaluates hazard risk mitigation for five primary risk categories: earthquake, flooding, wildfire, landslide, and Phoenix Lake Dam inundation.



The MCM LHMP and the 2021 report is available on the Town's website at <https://www.townofross.org/emergencyservices/page/local-hazard-mitigation-plan>, and residents are encouraged to review these documents and provide staff with any comments on the current plan and/or suggestions for new hazard mitigation efforts when the MCM LHMP is updated in 2024. Comments can be sent to the Public Works Director Richard Simonitch (rsimonitch@townofross.org).

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the June Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town’s website [June 10th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the July 8, 2021 Council meeting.

Address: 187 Prospect Avenue
Owner: Ashley & Andy Stewart
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 7 Upper Ames Avenue
Owner: Michael & Emily Millman
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

July 4th Celebration Cancelled

For the second year in a row, we are sorry to announce this year’s 4th of July parade celebration is cancelled. We look forward to this beloved event returning next year when we can all be together. Have a safe and happy 4th of July.



Downtown Ross Outdoor Dining

Live Music

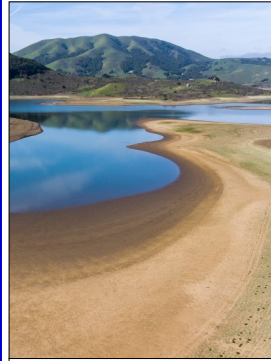
Friday, June 18 – 4:00 to 9:00 pm
Saturday, June 19 – 10:00 am to 9:00 pm

Summer is almost here and the weather is perfect for dining al fresco. We hope you will come enjoy a meal outdoors to support Ross’s downtown restaurants (Crown & Crumpet, Marche Aux Fleurs, Tony Tutto, Trattoria Fresco, and Village Corner). Dine at the outdoor tables on Redwood Drive, or spread out with a blanket on the grass. Live music by Tom Rhodes on Friday and Tailor Made Ensembles on Saturday, will be featured from 5:00 - 8:30 pm (courtesy of the Town, Ross Property Owners Association, and Ross Auxiliary).



MMWD Drought Restrictions

The Marin Municipal Water District presented new mandatory water restrictions at the June Council meeting. After two consecutive dry years with some of the lowest rainfall levels on record in more than 140 years, reservoirs at Marin Water are now at historic lows. Reserve storage levels are below 50 percent, typically at this time of year levels are at more than 90 percent full. This drought is on track to be a drought of record, with conditions more severe than in the drought of the 1970s.



Nicasio Reservoir

To preserve its limited water supply, the water district declared a water shortage emergency in April and adopted mandatory water restrictions for all of its customers.

The new water rules limit spray irrigation to no more than two days a week, and drip irrigation to no more than three days a week. Washing cars at home and power washing homes and businesses are also prohibited. Covers are required for all pools and spas and refilling or topping off decorative fountains is prohibited. A full list of the new water rules is available at MarinWater.org/WaterRules.

Simple changes to your daily routine—turning off the water while brushing your teeth, taking shorter showers, and doing dishes and laundry only when you have full loads—also make a difference.

The water district provides rebates on several water-saving programs, including lawn replacements, irrigation controllers, and Flume flow meters that provide real-time information on your water use directly to your phone or computer. Flume is easy to install and straps on to your existing water meter.

It provides up-to-the minute information to help you find and fix leaks, and find the right areas where you can reduce water use. The district covers the majority of the cost, with homeowners paying just \$50. The district also offers customers free water-efficient hose nozzles, showerheads and faucet aerators. Learn more at MarinWater.org/Rebates or email the district at Conservation@MarinWater.org. Find the latest information about Marin’s water supply and conservation tips at MarinWater.org/Conserve.

Fire-Smart Landscaping Tip

UC Marin Master Gardeners fire-smart landscaping tip for June say it's time to clean-up and spruce up. By eliminating or moving combustible items surrounding your home, you can take the first step towards making your landscape fire-smart. Grab a bucket, a broom and a hand pruner and start these easy-to-do maintenance tasks today:



- Clean-up areas where wind eddies deposit leaf and plant litter along the perimeter of your home.
- Clear dead debris from flower beds close to the home.
- Rake up wood mulch within 5 feet of the home and move it to another location in your garden.
- Trim dead, damaged and diseased branches and dispose of the material in your green waste bin.
- Move common combustible fire hazards away from the area immediately surrounding your home including brooms, rakes, plastic waste bins, wood furniture, furniture cushions, wood piles, and natural fiber door mats. Move these items as far away from your house as possible – or indoors if a nearby wildfire threatens.

Chipper Days Waste Removal

We encourage residents to take advantage of the first round of the Chipper Day program which is currently going on in Ross. As wildfire season approaches, responsible vegetation management and creating defensible space is more important than ever.

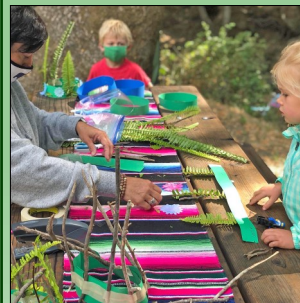
The Chipper Program is a free curbside pickup program for residents to collect waste material such as tree limbs, shrubs, brush, woody bushes, pampas grass, etc. that is within 10x4x4. Pre-registration is required. To find the date the Chipper Program will be in your neighborhood, go to <https://www.chipperday.com/marin> and enter your address, and complete the information requested.

RECREATION NEWS

To say that this school year was a challenge would be an understatement, but within that challenge, resilience, compassion and dedication persevered. Children are incredibly resilient and this was a true test of that. With a daughter in Kindergarten, I feel like the school year was just getting started and now it's coming to an end. Thankfully, we have fun and engaging Summer Camps planned to keep your children outdoors, moving their bodies and connecting with their peers.



Many of our Summer camps sessions are full but we do have some open spots in Holly Hoppin' Nature Camp, Top Gun, Academic Chess Camp, Hip Hop Camp and a few others. Please reach out with any questions about the camps that you are interested in and we can help you get signed up or on the waitlist.



One of the goals we have at the Recreation Department is to find programs that are beneficial to adults and seniors. Starting the week of June 14th, we will be bringing back the Adult basketball practice/games in the Ross School gym from 6:30-8:30pm with Sandrick Jackson. Please sign-up on our website at <https://www.rossrecreation.org/> or contact us at rossrec@rossrecreation.org with any questions. We will also be looking into continuing our adult tennis programs and then an overall increase in adult programs in the fall. The recreation team is currently exploring programs that the senior community would enjoy. We would greatly appreciate any feedback or suggestions from community members as to what they would like to see offered. Please e-mail gcastets@townofross.org with your thoughts.

We are looking forward to a fun summer filled with smiles, can't wait to see you there!

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 2021

Jun 10	6:00	pm	Council Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
Jun 15	--	--	June Advisory Design Review Group Meeting Cancelled
Jun 18	4-9:00	pm	Ross Downtown Outdoor Dining (<i>see Page 3 for details</i>)
Jun 19	10-9:00	pm	Ross Downtown Outdoor Dining (<i>see Page 3 for details</i>)

JULY 2021

Jul 5	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Independence Day
Jul 5	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Assn (<i>for Zoom link, contact jeffkoblick@comcast.net</i>)
Jul 8	6:00	pm	Council Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
Jul 20	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)

AUGUST 2021

Aug 12	6:00	pm	Council Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)
Aug 17	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (<i>virtual meeting</i>)

CONTACT US

Administration Office - llopez@townofross.org	415-453-1453 x105	Police Department - rpata@townofross.org	415-453-1453, Opt. 2
Building Department - breher@townofross.org	415-453-1453 x106	Public Works Director - rsimonitch@townofross.org	415-453-1453 x115
Bldg Inspection Hotline - erobbe@townofross.org	415-453-1453 x170	Recreation Department - rossrec@rossrecreation.org	415-453-6020
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 - jchinn@townofross.org	415-453-1453 x107

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Visit us at www.townofross.org



Email

We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email

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