

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Julie McMillan
Mayor

Happy almost spring! It's gratifying to see so many Marin businesses and schools reopening, and so many residents receiving vaccinations, positive signs that we are returning to a 'new normal'!

We all seem to be experiencing climate change: Record-breaking warm temperatures; rainfall less than a third of normal; flowers and trees blooming earlier than ever; and the realization that California's wildfire season this year could be even worse than last's, which broke all records.

In late February the Town Council held its annual Strategic Planning Session, with a review of [the Town Goals](#). Recognizing

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Council Considers Town Facilities Decision



The police station and the fire station, with the exception of the two fire engine bays, are physically and functionally obsolete with significant structural deficiencies. Both were built in 1927, long before the 1986 Essential Service Act (ESA), which established requirements for public safety building construction. Public safety personnel generally consider the Ross police and fire facilities to be

in the worst physical and functional condition of any such facilities in Marin County. Under any rebuilding scenario, the Town Hall building that houses the Council Chamber will remain.

The question for the Town Council and community has been what facilities (police, fire, paramedic, administrative) should the Town update and modernize to serve the community efficiently and professionally for the next 30 to 50 years? The Town has held four public Council and community workshops on this topic including on August 13 and October 29, 2020, and January 14 and March 11, 2021. We have had extensive public attendance and participation at these public meetings. The public input has provided valuable input and insight to the Town Council and staff in this process. Based on the input and questions at the October 29 community workshop, Town prepared a list of answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) as well as a short video that illustrates the current conditions of the Town's emergency services facilities.

In December 2020, the Town conducted an online community questionnaire to gather additional information from the public concerning the Town's facilities and services. A total of 336 participants responded to the questionnaire. Responses indicated that medical response, police in the community, and wildfire safety were important community issues. Related to the questions on the willingness to pay a tax for two levels of the building options – 63% of respondents indicated that they are willing to pay a tax to support the rebuilding costs of police, paramedic, and administrative facilities. Only 31% of respondents indicated that they are willing to pay a tax to replace fire, police, paramedic, and administrative facilities in town. All of the meeting materials, questionnaire results, links to the background documents, a recording of the community workshop, frequently asked question (FAQ) sheet, and the existing conditions video are available on the [Town's website](#).

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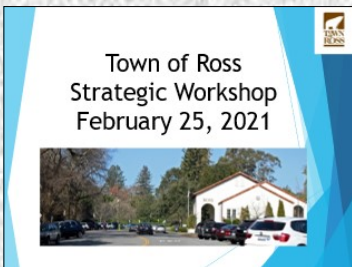
the need to prioritize addressing climate change, we added a new Town Goal: "Promote environmental stewardship." Since 2010, Ross has also had its own [Climate Action Plan](#), and has reduced its greenhouse gases by 28% (2005-18), above the countywide average.

In Marin, gas cars are the biggest contributor to greenhouse gases. After 2035, California will no longer sell gas cars, only electric vehicles (EVs). Councilmember Kircher and I have been participating in the county's Climate Action Committee. Recently this committee heard a presentation from Drive Clean Bay Area. It offers free workshops to show why your next car should be an EV, and provides some preferred pricing options. Please visit [Drive Clean Bay Area](#) to learn more. Also at our Strategic Planning Session, the Council agreed to continue further discussion on installing an EV charger in the Post Office parking lot, near Lagunitas.



Finally, I am almost finished with Resilient Neighborhoods' five-part online sessions to help Marin residents reduce their carbon footprint. Resilient Neighborhoods has eliminated more than 8.6 million pounds of annual CO2 emissions. I encourage you to do your part to reduce your household's climate footprint. Two more free online sessions start later this month (March 25 (afternoons) or March 31 (evenings)). Please sign up at [Resilient Neighborhoods](#). ■

February 25 Annual Council Strategic Workshop Highlights



The Town Council and staff held their annual Strategic Workshop on February 25. We made great progress on a number of issues as we move forward with specific projects, including the five year financial

forecast and five year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The Town Council added a new Town goal of promote environmental stewardship. The seven Town goals are: 1) provide transparency, consistency, and fairness in government, 2) sustain financial responsibility and stability, 3) enhance effectiveness and efficiency of delivery of services, 4) maintain a safe community, 5) foster and strengthen community involvement, 6) improve infrastructure and facilities, 7) promote environmental stewardship.

Some of next fiscal year's projects to be completed include: a Town Facilities Master Plan; Ross Common Landscape Improvement Master Plan; review and input on County Flood protection plan project and potential redesign of Frederick Allen Park; processing of underground utilities district project in West Ross and around

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Corte Madera Creek Flood DEIR

The Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is the lead agency for the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project Phase I "Draft Environmental Impact Report" (DEIR) with respect to the California



Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Town staff prepared a draft comment letter to address the adequacy of the DEIR and presented it to Council for review and discussion. The DEIR 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. Besides the proposed project, the DEIR identifies 4 project alternatives including the "no project" alternative. The alternative that proposes to keep Allen Park and the concrete channel intact is Alternative I which cuts additional fish resting pools into the channel bottom. The other alternatives have variations in the floodplain park concept from the proposed project.

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PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the March Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [March 11th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the April 8, 2021 Council meeting.

Address: 96 Laurel Grove Avenue
Owner: Mehul Patel & Inna Fabikant
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

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



Town Facilities

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At the March Council meeting, after much community input and discussion on the topic, the Town Council provided direction to staff to proceed with next steps for replacing Town facilities to include the police station, paramedics, and administrative staff. The Town will hire a Master Plan consultant to move the project forward, further developing the concept and design of the site facilities. There will be significant public participation opportunities as part of the Master Plan design process. Environmental analysis will run concurrently with development of the Facilities Master Plan. ■



Ross Auxiliary Spring Cookie Kits



Celebrate spring with the Ross Auxiliary's sweet at-home cookie decorating kits! Kits include undecorated cookies, icing, sprinkles and a fun tip sheet. [Pre-order](#) today, pick up March 26 at the Post Office. Proceeds benefit the Town.

When you get your cookies you'll also get a special passport to our [The Great Spring Hunt](#), a community-wide walk or bike challenge to explore the neighborhood and discover Spring-themed surprises that kicks off March 27. Visit rossauxiliary.com/events for details.

February 25 Workshop Highlights

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the Town Hall; community building events; Age Friendly Ross Strategic Plan; Climate Action Plan update; pavement rehabilitation of Redwood Drive, Ross Common, and Post Office parking lot; and complete design and begin construction of Laurel Grove pathway and roadway improvements.

We welcome any input you may have on the Town and priorities. Please contact Joe Chinn at jchinn@townofross.org, if you do have any thoughts you want to share. ■

Corte Madera Creek Flood DEIR

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Most of the comments in the letter and the ensuing discussion involved the proposed project's impacts to the aesthetics and visual resources within Frederick Allen Park, the one significant and unavoidable impact identified in the DEIR. The DEIR states that the impact on visual quality would be significant and unavoidable for a period of approximately 10 years while the planted trees grow to a height where the tree canopy screens views of the concrete structures and surrounding buildings to a level that is similar to the existing visual screening of the surrounding area. Another important topic of discussion was the flood protection benefits of the proposed project and "Alternative 1" with a detailed comparison of the flood benefits of both provided at the meeting. The 45-day review period for the DEIR began February 1st and runs until March 17, 2021. Staff will incorporate the comments and changes from last night's meeting and submit the final letter before the March 17th deadline. ■



Drought is Here - It's Time to Conserve

The latest news from Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) is that warmer, drier weather has moved us into the early stages of drought. In fact, 2020 was the second-driest year in 90 years. We entered March with reservoir storage levels at 56 percent capacity when we typically see an average of about 90 percent for this time of year.

Get Started Conserving Today

You can request a Conservation Assistance Program (CAP) audit of your water usage. A water efficiency expert will schedule a phone consultation with you to come up with an individualized plan to help you save water. Email Conservation@MarinWater.org or call 415-945-1523, to schedule a CAP appointment.

Drought is Here Conserve Water



The biggest water savings can be found outdoors. MMWD is asking all customers to voluntarily turn off their irrigation systems. If necessary, water only by hand

no more than three days a week. To reduce evaporation, water only before 9 a.m. or after 7 p.m.

Consider replacing your lawn with drought resistant plants. Install a smart irrigation controller that automatically adjusts to weather and landscaping to deliver just the right amount of water.

Simple Changes Can Make a Difference

- Don't wash sidewalks, walkways, driveways or other hard surfaced areas. Use a broom instead.
- Don't wash your car at home. Take it to a carwash that uses recycled water instead.
- Check for leaks and fix them.
- Replace your older washing machine with a high-efficiency model and apply for a [rebate](#) of up to \$100.
- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth.
- Take shorter showers.
- Do laundry and dishes with a full load only.
- Hold off on refilling decorative fountains, swimming pools and hot tubs until drought conditions end.

RECREATION NEWS

We are a year into this pandemic and as we enter spring, I have to say, the feeling of hope and re-growth is more apt than ever. The Ross Recreation team is excited to start our spring session with Sandricks's Sports, Coach Schafer Sports, Hip Hop, First Step Soccer with Coach Dan, Adult Tennis and much more. We also have been working with the Ross School to build an afterschool program with Holly Salamun to pick your child (ren) up directly from class with their new, expanded schedule.



Sandrick's Sports

Please spread the word to any Ross School families you know that may need aftercare until 4-5pm!!



Lala & J Art Camp Dreamcatchers

In the theme of growth, we wanted to celebrate spring by holding a few one-day workshops. We are working on a spring wreath making workshop for adults, a build your own succulent garden for K-5th and a mothers-day flower pot workshop for K-5th as well. More details to come on this and we

send out an email when registration for the workshops opens up.

Summer registration is OPEN!! Summer is going to be so fun this year. There will still be restrictions and guidelines but they will not take away from the joy of being outside, playing and laughing with friends. Many of our summer sessions have already filled so if you're interested in having your child attend, I would recommend signing up soon! We are offering our oldies but goodies; Top Gun, Sporty Girl, Holly Hoppin' at Phoenix Lake, LEGO Camp, Gone Fishin' Camp and then some new gems such as Lala & J Art Camp & Hip Hop Camp.



Holly Hoppin' Aftercare

The future is looking FUN and we are honored to have your children participate in our programs. Contact us at rossrec@rossrecreation.org. We can't wait to hear from you and see your kids outside playing!

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2021

- Mar 11 6:00 pm Council Meeting (*virtual meeting*)
- Mar 16 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (*virtual meeting*)

APRIL 2021

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

MAY 2021

- May 10 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Assn (*for Zoom invite, contact jeffkoblick@comcast.net*)
- May 13 6:00 pm Council Meeting (*virtual meeting*)
- May 18 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (*virtual meeting*)
- May 31 -- -- Town Hall offices closed for Memorial Day

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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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Email

We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email

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