

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

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### Mayor's Corner



P. Beach Kuhl  
Mayor

Here's a tidbit of Ross history: We all know that in 1982 an unrelenting rainstorm caused severe flooding and major damage in downtown Ross. But probably few remember the landslide the same storm triggered in a gully above Chestnut Avenue.

In our house at the corner of Bridge and Chestnut I heard the horn at the firehouse blow the code for a flood and hustled across the Lagunitas Road Bridge over the rising waters of Corte Madera Creek and on to San Francisco where I had a trial starting that morning.

By the afternoon, the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway 101 were closed and power and phones were out at our home

*Continued on Page 2*

### IN THIS ISSUE

2. EV Station Parking
2. Fernhill Paving Project Starting
3. Planning
3. Hazard Mitigation Plan Review
3. Housing Element Update
4. Town Adds Juneteenth Holiday
4. Recreation
5. Calendar

### Ross Common Pathways Restored



forward to being outdoors again, enjoying together the beauty offered by our wonderful Ross Common.

The Ross Common pathways have been restored, "paving" the way for an exciting line up of late Summer and early Fall activities including "Live on the Common" August 26th 4:30-8 PM, and the Ross Town Dinner on September 30<sup>th</sup>. So mark your calendar and get ready to join your fellow community for these fun events. We look

### September is National Preparedness Month

With wildfire season upon us, it's important to be ready for an emergency. Here are preparedness tips to help you stay safe.

#### TIP: Alerts

- Sign up for [AlertMarin](#) to receive critical information during an emergency/disaster with action required — **This is your baseline for preparedness.**
- Sign up for [Nixle](#) to receive general public safety information alerts via text based on your zip code
- Stay informed with [PGE PSPS Address Alerts](#)

#### TIP: Taking Action

- [Make A Plan](#) to ensure you have a meet-up location for those close to you, contact information, and out-of-area contact
- [Gather Emergency Supplies](#) in case you Stay (shelter in place) or Go (evacuate) and organize them into a Stay Box and a Go Bag
- [Last Minute List](#) contains those things you want to take with you if you have time

*Continued on Page 4*

although friends reported that my family was safe. I stayed in a hotel near my office and bought a new shirt, underwear and socks each day after court. By the fourth day, phone service was restored, but not power, and I drove home via the East Bay. Entering a darkened Ross I encountered a military guard at Lagunitas Road and Willow Avenue. After proving my identity, I was allowed to continue to my home.



At daylight I saw and learned that on the day of the flood a torrent of mud had come from above Chestnut Street, through our backyard and onto Bridge Road and the property next door. It had torn a corner off our neighbors' home, pushed the paved surface of Bridge Road out of the street, knocked a brick wall across the street down and pushed a car from the street into a swimming pool on the property across the street. The mud continued onto an adjacent property on Brookwood Avenue and pushed the occupants out of the front of their house. They arrived at their neighbors' house covered in mud from head to toe.

We had the fences around our back yard knocked down and we were left with a layer of about six inches of mud and debris over our backyard but somehow our house suffered no damage.

I'm afraid there's no deep philosophical lesson embedded in what I've related other than perhaps "You never know." ■

## Electric Vehicle Station Parking Ordinance Adopted



Town Council adopted a new Electric Vehicle (EV) Station Parking Ordinance which restricts parking in all public EV charging station stalls in Ross to actively charging EV's only. The Town currently has two EV charging stations in the Post Office parking lot. The Ordinance provides for the issuance of parking fines if non-EV vehicles occupy these spaces

or if any vehicle blocks access to these spaces.

The fines for illegally parking in the EV stalls are set by the Marin County Superior Court and are subject to change annually. The Ordinance goes into effect on September 30, 2022.

## Fernhill Paving Begins August 17

Town Council awarded the Fernhill paving project to Maggiora and Ghilotti, the lowest responsive bidder out of 4 bids received by the Town. Residents on Fernhill Avenue, Shanley Lane, Park Drive (Branson), and Circle Drive will experience traffic restrictions beginning Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. The most restrictive day will be Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup> when asphalt paving operations will close off the roadway beginning in the morning at Glenwood and proceeding downhill toward Shady throughout the entire day. Depending on the weather, segments of the roadway will reopen approximately 4 hours after paving. Town staff will continue to coordinate with local residents and Branson School staff to provide accurate schedules early next week before construction starts. Branson classes begin on August 23<sup>rd</sup> after most of the project work should be completed. Pedestrian traffic on Fernhill should be unrestricted throughout construction but please stay alert and safe whenever construction equipment is operating.

Thank you for your patience. Please contact Public Works Director Richard Simonitch ([rsimonitch@townofross.org](mailto:rsimonitch@townofross.org)) if you have any questions.

## PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the August 11, 2022 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's [August 11th](#) website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted on this page after adoption by the Council.

**Address: 98 Laurel Grove Avenue**  
**Applicant: Adam & Kelly Dwinells**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 11 Locust Avenue**  
**Applicant: Jeanice Skvaril & Jason Fuchs**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-2 (Brekhus/Robbins recused)**

## Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Annual Report

Town staff presented the 2022 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 2022 report are 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](mailto:rsimonitch@townofross.org)).

## Housing Element Update



Work on the Housing Element Update continues apace, with a public review draft scheduled for release in late September. An online survey went live on July 12, following the first community workshop to provide additional opportunities for Ross residents to have their say. The survey is intended to gauge interest in ADUs in the community and responses will help make the case that ADUs are an important part of the housing element puzzle in Ross. To date, 104 residents have responded but our goal is to hear from 200 residents so the survey deadline will be extended to August 18. The survey can be accessed from the Town website or this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V7FSXGG>.

At the Council's meeting in September, the Council will review a draft of the core components of the Housing Element Update developed with community input: the sites map, inventory of projected capacity of the sites, and the program of actions, which represent the commitments the Town will make to meet State requirements for promoting housing at all levels of affordability over the next 8 years. Following that meeting, additional outreach activities are planned, including a second community workshop, a presentation at the Age-Friendly brunch event September 20, and pop-up events around Town. More details of these events will be posted to the Housing Element Update page on the Town's website as they are confirmed: <https://www.townofross.org/planning/page/town-ross-housing-element-update>.

## Council Adopts Adding Juneteenth Holiday



The Council adopted a Resolution declaring June 19th (Juneteenth) a holiday every year in the Town. On June 17, 2021, President Biden signed a bill creating Juneteenth Independence Day commemorating the end of slavery and recognizing June 19th as a federal holiday. The majority of cities in Marin County have already declared Juneteenth as a holiday and the remaining cities are planning to consider the action in the coming months.





## Wildfire Preparedness

- continued from Page 1

### TIP: Stay Informed

- Bookmark and actively browse Marin County's [Public Emergency Portal](#)
- Keep a [NOAA radio](#) on hand to stay informed when without power

### TIP: Local Wildfire Education

- Learn more about the Greater Ross Valley [Shaded Fuel Break](#) through Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA)
- Learn more about [Defensible Space & Home Hardening](#) through Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA)

### TIP: Additional Video Resources

- [Know Your Zone](#) - how evacuation orders or warnings are decided
- [Evacuations & Warnings: How to Survive a Wildfire](#) with Central Marin Fire Battalion Chief Todd Lando
- [2020 Glass Fire Analysis](#) with Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority's Executive Officer Mark Brown ■

## AGE FRIENDLY CORNER

*Tips to live long and well in Ross*



### Know When It's Time For In-Home Help

Caregiving is stressful in all sorts of ways. It can be time consuming and it can be emotionally and physi-

cally exhausting. It can be financially demanding, especially if it interferes with your ability to work outside the home. You want what's best for your aging spouse or parent. But feeling overwhelmed isn't good for anyone. If you neglect your own well-being, the well-being of your loved one is likely to suffer, too. Hiring someone to come in and help with activities of daily living is a good option when you cannot adequately meet the needs of your loved one. Learn more about caregiving resources in Marin County at the Marin One Door Information and Assistance Line at (415) 473-4636, or 473-INFO@marincounty.org. Phone calls and emails are answered Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30 pm. Further resources can be found at: [AARP-How to Assess](#), [AARP-Hiring a Caregiver](#), [Marin HHS](#), [NIA FAQs](#).

## RECREATION NEWS



We would like to start by thanking the Ross community and beyond for having your children attend our summer camps and bringing such positivity and joy each and every day. This summer was full of fun,

dancing, water play, fishing, friendship and so much more. We are beyond grateful to our instructors who dedicate their summers to these families and do all they can to create lifelong memories. We are sad to see summer come to an end, but excited for what the fall session has in store!



The fall session is LIVE for adult classes, Bacich after-school classes & Ross after-school classes. Some after-school programs have filled but there are also quite a few with openings. We have a new program we will be offering the first four weeks at the Ross School, which is Holly's Back to School Camp. This program will run from 1:10-4:30 with 3 different time slots available for registration. Your child will be picked up directly from class and have time to do science projects, crafts, local walks and much more. In addition to that, any of our Ross fall classes that are at the time of dismissal or within 15 minutes of dismissal, will have the Ross Recreation staff there to assist your child to the program. Please find the full list of programs on our website.



We are excited to report that we have added a NEW adult/age friendly program to our roster, Chi Gong, taught by Susan Ezra. Chi Gong is the ancient Chinese practice of movement and meditation, deeply rooted in the balance and harmony of nature. This class will be held in the shaded grove area of the Ross

Common and begins in September. To register, go to [rossrecreation.org](#), and click the "adult" tab to find the class. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at [rossrec@rossrecreation.org](mailto:rossrec@rossrecreation.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## AUGUST 2022

Aug 11	6:00 pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Aug 16	6:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Aug 26	4:30-8 pm	<a href="#">Live on the Common Event</a> , Ross Common

## SEPTEMBER 2022

Sep 5	-- --	Town Hall offices closed for Labor Day
Sep 8	6:00 pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Sep 20	9-11:00 am	Age Friendly Breakfast, Crown & Crumpet
Sep 20	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Sep 30	5:30 pm	Annual Ross Town Dinner, Ross Common

## OCTOBER 2022

Oct 10	7:00 pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
Oct 13	6:00 pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Oct 18	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

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- <a href="mailto:erobbe@townofross.org">erobbe@townofross.org</a>		- <a href="mailto:rossrec@rossrecreation.org">rossrec@rossrecreation.org</a>	
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Email

We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email

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