

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 | Issue 6 | June 2022

Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Robbins, M.D.
Mayor

Mass shootings do not need to be an inevitable part of American life. In the ten years between 2009 and 2018, 1,121 people were killed in mass shootings in the U.S. and 836 more were wounded. The annual toll of all gun violence in the U.S. is staggering: nearly 120,000 people are shot each year, with over 40,000 dying. The Centers for Disease Control reports that firearms have now surpassed car accidents as the number one cause of death for children and adolescents. Despite repeated mass shootings and other firearm violence, no meaningful steps have been taken by Congress to address these tragedies.

Continued on Page 2

Live on the Common Recap

Live on the Common returned to Downtown Ross on Saturday, May 14th bringing free live music, a DJ, food trucks, beverages and games for all to enjoy. In a splendid picture-perfect day, the Ross community enjoyed a lovely event sponsored by the Town of Ross, Ross Auxiliary, and Ross Property Owners' Association. Thank you to everyone who coordinated and organized the event, and the Town staff and volunteers who worked the event. Photos courtesy of Marin Family Photography.



IN THIS ISSUE

- 2. Electric Scooters on Common
- 2. Preliminary Election Results
- 3. Planning
- 3. Gun Buy-Back Event Held
- 3. Housing Element Update
- 3. Defensible Space Evaluations
- 4. Recreation
- 5. Calendar

Annual Ross 4th of July Celebration is Back!

After a two-year pause due to Covid, the annual Town of Ross 4th of July celebration returns this year on Monday, July 4th! The parade kicks off the celebration at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join the parade. A picnic on Ross Common follows the parade. Enjoy music, games, face painting, and much more! To join the parade, please contact Gretchen Castets, Recreation Manager, at gcastets@townofross.org.



Citizens cannot simply accept this inaction around firearm violence prevention. Local and national groups continue to lobby for meaningful regulations to control access to firearms. Two Ross families, the Morris/Soltero family and McGuire family, recently launched a fundraiser for the Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund. This fund is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to improve understanding of the causes of gun violence and the means to reduce it. The organization, which has over 8 million members, was established as a merger of two groups focused on ending gun violence, Mayors Against Illegal Guns and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. Its strategies include research, advocacy, litigation, and grassroots organization.



June 2, 2022 Event on Ross Common

Some specific goals are: Background checks on all gun sales; Regulate assault weapons; Prohibit high-capacity magazines; Raise the age to purchase a gun; Waiting periods between gun purchase and possession; Prohibit people with dangerous histories from having guns; Extreme risk laws (temporarily prevent someone in crisis from accessing guns); and Build awareness of the importance of secure firearm storage.

Thank you, Emily Morris and Julie McGuire, for organizing the very successful event on Ross Common on June 2 to raise awareness about gun violence prevention. Please consider joining Emily and Julie in making a donation to Everytown at Everytown.org. If you'd like to be informed of local volunteer opportunities for Moms Demand Action, text ACT to 644-33. ■

Electric Scooters Prohibited on the Ross Common



Springtime brings out the long-awaited desire for all of us to get outdoors and enjoy the warm weather under the lush tree canopy of Ross Common and other public open spaces in

Town. While out and about, please remember (and please remind visitors and friends) that the pathways on Ross Common are designated for pedestrian use only and it is unlawful for any person to operate motorized vehicles of any kind on any pathway in Town. This restriction includes motorized vehicles of all types, including electric powered scooters, bicycles, and skateboards. Bicycles may be ridden only on the designated bike path through Frederick Allen Park and must be walked or pushed on the field or paths of the Common.

Let's get out and enjoy a safe and healthy summer outdoors this year! Please contact the Public Works Department at (415) 453-1453 ext. 115 or email rsimonitch@townofross.org, if you have any questions.



Preliminary Election Results of June 7, 2022 Election

The ballots for the June 7, 2022 Town of Ross election are still being counted as we go to press. The preliminary election results indicate the following potential winners based on the votes counted thus far. For Council seats, three candidates ran for Council to fill two seats. The names listed are in order of highest votes received so far. The Town's Paramedic Services Tax Measure (Measure I) was also on the ballot and required a two-thirds Yes vote in order to pass. Preliminary results are showing Measure I as passing.

Town Council
Julie McMillan
Elizabeth Robbins
Nicholas Skewes-Cox

Measure I
Yes = 86.78%
No = 13.22%

The County Registrar has until July 7, 2022 to certify the election results. You can follow the results which will continue to update weekly on Wednesdays and Fridays at <https://results.enr.clarityelections.com/CA/Marin/112981/web.285569/#!/summary> until all the votes are counted.

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the June 16, 2022 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meetings can be found on the Town's [June 16th](#) website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted on this page after adoption by the Council.

Address: 15 Skyland Way
Applicant: Horatio LLC
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 3 Willow Hill Road
Applicant: Scott Fletcher
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-0 (Kuhl recused)

Address: 5 Ames Avenue
Applicant: Stephen & Jacqueline Swire
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain) 5-0-0

GUN BUY-BACK EVENT HELD



On Saturday, June 4, the San Rafael Police Department in cooperation with the Marin County District Attorney's Office hosted a gun buy-back program. Towns and Cities in

Marin contributed police staffing and funding to buy-back functioning handguns and rifles from the community. Organizers offered \$100 for functional handguns, rifles and shotguns, and \$200 for semi-automatic weapons. Boxed ammunition was accepted as well. The event drew hundreds of people. All of the guns collected were destroyed.

Officers and Law Enforcement staff from around the County including Ross Police Chief Pata and Officer Nicholas participated in the event which was held at the Marin County Sheriff's Office. The collaborating agencies are working to help reduce gun violence, the risk of accidental discharges, domestic violence, suicide, and gun theft by encouraging people to voluntarily turn in or sell guns they no longer want in their homes.

Housing Element Update



Preparations for a community open house meeting on the Housing Element Update are underway. Andrew Hill of Dyett & Bhatia presented on the format, objectives, and materials that



will be presented at the open house meeting, which will be held in the Town Council Chambers between 5:30 and 7:30 on Tuesday July 12. Once the details are confirmed, an invitation to participate will be mailed to every household in Ross.

Bufano Bear Maintenance



The Town's beloved Bufano Bear sculpture (by Benjamino Bufano) that sits outside Town Hall, is scheduled for some much needed maintenance on Tuesday, June 21st. Staff from Preservation Arts

will be on-site to perform the maintenance and treatment which includes surface cleaning, grouting (where needed), and visual integration of surfaces. The work is expected to be completed in one day. The bear should be receiving annual maintenance treatments to preserve the sculpture but has been delayed due to Covid the past two years.

Defensible Space Evaluations Begin Week of June 20th in the Shady Lane Neighborhood

The Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) in cooperation with the Ross Valley Fire Department (RVFD) will be conducting wildfire defensible space and home hardening evaluations on residential properties in the Shady Lane neighborhood of Ross and San Anselmo starting the week of June 20th. Fire Inspectors will be going door to door in the neighborhood. To view a short video on what to expect during an inspection, click [here](#). Please contact dSPACE@marinwildfire.org or (415) 275-1185 with any questions.



Fire-Smart Landscaping Tip

from UC Marin Master Gardeners

Clean up Zone Zero – Within 5 Feet of Your Home

- Clean-up areas where wind eddies deposit leaf and plant litter along the perimeter of your home, on the roof, and combustibles under decks.
- Clear dead debris from flowerbeds close to the house and any combustible mulches.
- Remove dead, damaged and diseased plant branches, trees and shrubs. Dispose of the material in your green waste bin.
- Any vegetation should be pruned back and kept hydrated especially along exit routes. Placement and maintenance of plants are more important than type of plant.
- Move common combustible fire hazards away from the area immediately surrounding your home including brooms, rakes, plastic bins, wood furniture, furniture cushions, wood piles, and natural fiber door mats. Move these items as far away from the house as possible – or indoors if a nearby wildfire threatens.



RECREATION NEWS

Summer has arrived and we couldn't be more excited! The Ross Common is alive with kids playing, laughing and celebrating the end of the school year. All of our camps run from 9am-1pm, so that's when you will see our groups out there. We do have some openings in a few of our camps including Academic Chess (7/18), LEGO (6/20 & 7/11), Top Gun (6/27), Sporty Girl (6/20), Ross Bears Kinder Camp (7/25) and Gone Fishin' Camp (7/18). Please go to our website (<https://www.rossrecreation.org/>) to register or contact us at the office. Our summer office hours are Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm and we are available by e-mail (rossrec@rossrecreation.org) Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.



Fall soccer registration is OPEN for K-2nd graders!! Some practice days are full but not all. Please sign up ASAP, so you don't lose out on participating. We will be opening the rest of our fall programs in July, so keep an eye out for the email blast that will let you know when that goes LIVE!

Last month the Town partnered with Age Friendly, Ross Property Owners Association, Marin Center for Independent Living, and Ross Ready to host a Disaster Preparedness Planning Meeting for Ross Residents at the Marin Art & Garden Center. We had a great turn out and were able to share information of what to do in the case of emergency and how to best be powered and prepared. If you are interested in learning more about the tools we discussed, please reach out to me directly and I can connect you with the appropriate resources (gcastets@townofross.org).

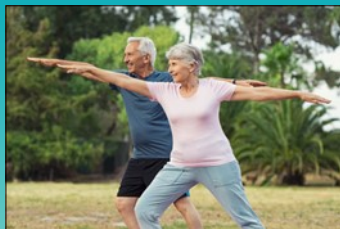


Lastly, we would like to wish everyone a wonderful and relaxing summer. We look forward to seeing you around town!

AGE FRIENDLY CORNER

Tips to live long and well in Ross

Healthy Aging - The National Institute of Health indicates there are many factors influencing healthy aging. Some of these are not in our control. Others — exercise, a healthy diet, going to the doctor regularly, and taking care of our mental health — are within our reach. Research has identified actions you can take to help manage your health, living independently and maintaining your quality of life. Read and learn at: <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/what-do-we-know-about-healthy-aging>.



ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 2022

Jun 16* 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom) **note date change*
 Jun 21 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (virtual meeting)

JULY 2022

Jul 4 -- -- Town Hall offices closed for Independence Day
 Jul 4 11:00 am 4th of July Parade and Celebration, Ross Common
 Jul 11 6:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Zoom link, contact jeffkoblick@comcast.net)
 Jul 11* 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom) **note date change*
 Jul 12 5:30 pm Housing Element Community Workshop, Town Hall (see Page 3 for details)
 Jul 14 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

AUGUST 2022

Aug 11 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
 Aug 16 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
 Aug 26 4:30-8 pm Live on the Common

CONTACT US

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

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 320, Ross, CA 94957
 Street Address: 31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Ross, CA 94957

Visit us at www.townofross.org



Email

We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email

llopez@townofross.org

The Morning After is published by the Town of Ross. No portion of this newsletter may be copied, reproduced or reprinted without advance written permission from the Town of Ross. For questions, please contact Linda Lopez at llopez@townofross.org.