

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



P. Beach Kuhl
Mayor

The members of our Town Council not only deal with local issues, but also represent our Town on countywide or regional governmental bodies whose actions have effects on Ross. I thought I would outline what those agencies are and what they do.

First, Mayor Pro Tem Elizabeth Brekhus serves on the board of directors of the Ross Valley Fire Department (RVFD) as do I. The RVFD provides fire protection services through fire stations in Ross, San Anselmo, Fairfax and Sleepy Hollow.

Councilmember Julie McMillan is currently vice-president of the Marin County Wildfire Prevention Agency, which leads the county's preparation of protection

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Bald Hill to be Preserved as Open Space



The Marin Open Space Trust (MOST) has signed a purchase agreement to acquire 60 acres on Bald Hill, the iconic 1,132-foot-high mountain visible throughout central Marin. The property, which is privately owned, includes the eastern facade, facing Ross, and the entire summit. The parcel is too steep for any significant housing development but could have been purchased for one or several private estates, potentially excluding use, even of the summit, by the public. Once the MOST purchase is completed, ownership will be transferred to the Marin County Open Space District, ensuring that Bald Hill will forever remain a public open-space preserve. The parcel will be added to the adjacent Bald Hill Open Space Preserve, which consists of 46 acres on the north side of Bald Hill overlooking Fairfax and San Anselmo.

Jonathan Braun, longtime chair of the San Anselmo Open Space Committee and MOST Board member, has been working with community partners since 1987 to preserve Bald Hill, including leading a ballot measure in Ross and San Anselmo in 1990 to fund a possible purchase. The measure fell just shy of the 2/3 majority required for approval. Another opportunity to acquire the property arose in 2020, at which time Ross Town Council member Elizabeth Robbins and Ross resident Dan Kalafatas joined Jonathan and others, working for the next 2½ years to find a way to purchase the parcel for permanent open space. With the help of numerous conservation-minded individuals and MOST, an agreement with the owner was reached, which should culminate in the purchase of the property within the next few months. Bald Hill will then be preserved in perpetuity.

against wildfire, including evacuation preparedness.

All the members of the Council are members of the Marin County Council of Mayors and Council Members (MCCMC) which holds monthly meetings with reports from various countywide or regional organizations and speakers on topics of local governmental interest. Julie serves on the organization's Homelessness and Climate Action Committees.

Bill Kircher is our delegate to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) which is a regional planning agency for the nine Bay Area counties and their cities and towns. He also serves on the board of Marin Clean Energy, a non-profit corporation providing green electricity to Marin County customers.

Elizabeth Robbins served during the pandemic on MCCMC's economic recovery committee, which focused on ways to help businesses during the economic turndown. Very significantly to Ross, she served as a leader of a committee to preserve Bald Hill, which she reports on elsewhere in this Morning After.

I have represented the Town as a Commissioner on the Transportation Agency of Marin which supports various transportation related projects throughout the County, for example supplying funds for the school crossing guards program and for local street maintenance. I have served on MCCMC's legislative committee and as the Council's liaison to the Ross Property Owners' Association and to our Age-Friendly Task Force.

So, if your favorite councilmember doesn't answer the phone, it doesn't mean he or she isn't busy serving the Town through some other agency. ■

Housing Element Update



With the Draft 2023-2031 Housing Element available for public review, the Town hosted an open house meeting on Monday, November 7th, to introduce key content to the community.

More than 30 residents attended the event, which involved a presentation and time for questions & answers.

The public review period runs through November 18th and the Draft document is available for review on the Town website [here](#). Ross residents are invited to share feedback with Rebecca Markwick, Planning and Building Director at rmarkwick@townofross.org.

Following close of the public comment period, community feedback will be relayed to the Town Council ahead of the December 8th meeting at which they will review the Draft Housing Element. Formal adoption of the document is scheduled for May 2023.

Mental Health & Fentanyl Crisis Overdose Prevention Summit on November 15

In the past two years of the pandemic, we have seen an increase in substance use and overdose. Recent data from Marin County Public Health show that the county is on track for another record year of overdose related deaths. The trend is directly tied to the increased availability and use of the powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl. In response to the growing crisis, Public Health and the RxSafe Marin coalition are hosting a gathering of agencies, community members, parents, and school leadership to end preventable overdoses in Marin. [Watch this video with the County's Public Health Officer Dr. Willis](#) for more information on the crisis, the summit, and the work we need to do together.

The [Marin County Overdose Prevention Summit](#) is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 15, at Embassy Suites in San Rafael (101 McInnis Parkway). [Online registration](#) is open for this free event. Live Spanish interpretation provided. [Register for the event](#). Space is limited.

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the November 10, 2022 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's [November 10th](#) website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted on this page after adoption by the Council.

Address: 21 Loma Linda Avenue
Applicant: Scott Golden & Ben Kozub
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Kircher recused)

Address: 40 Madrona Avenue
Applicant: Amy & Chad Lewis
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 0 Bellagio Road
Applicant: Bellagio Ross, LP
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-1-0 (Brekhus opposed)

Address: 71 Shady Lane - Continued to December 8, 2022 Council Meeting



Winter Preparedness

It's that time again to prepare for Winter. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting a return to normal or near-normal rainfall through Winter and into 2023. With this prediction comes the possibility of some potent atmospheric rivers as we move into 2023. While we all look forward to the rain coming again, we need your help to make sure that any drainage way through your property is clean and the original flow line and width are re-established. Every earth ditch, pipe and creek is an integral part of our whole drainage system. Each part needs to be maintained for our system to function properly.



Please maintain the right of way in front of your property to the edge of the road. Please keep the ditches clean of weeds and leaves. This will keep the culverts under your driveways from being blocked, which may cause

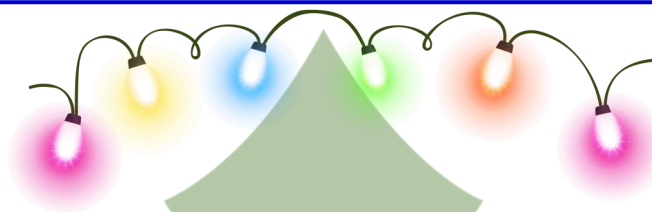
flooding on the roadway. Homeowners are responsible for the maintenance of the culverts under their driveways. If you have blackberries, brush, bamboo or other non-natives on your creek bank or channel blocking the flow of water please trim them out of the channel. Do not totally remove them and expose bare soil. They are helping to prevent erosion. Please cut any ivy off the trees, it will kill them over time. (See [Municipal Code Section 12.12.015](#).)

Please remove any dead or dying trees from the creek bank or channel before it falls. You will need to get a tree removal permit from the Public Works Department. The fees will be waived because you are removing a hazard.

Special Notice to Creek-Side Property Owners:

Creek bank restoration needs special permits from the Town and other regulatory agencies. This type of work should not be done this time of year. Restoration means live vegetation removal and replacement, live tree removal, bank stabilization, repair, retaining walls, rock riprap etc.

Your cooperation in maintaining our waterways is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please call the Public Works Department 453-1453 Ext. 115.



Winterfest 2022
Saturday, December 3, 2022
3:00 - 6:00 pm
on Ross Common

Main Event 3-6pm
Ice Skating 9am-6pm*

- **Holiday Caroling • Kids Activities**
- **Santa Claus • Food Trucks**
- **Hot Beverages & More**

*Rink Reservations: RossAuxiliary.com

Questions? Hello@RossAuxiliary.com



Gas – Powered Leaf Blowers Prohibited

We want to remind residents that the use of gas-powered leaf blowers is a violation of Ross Municipal Code Section [9.20.030](#), because they disturb the peace of our neighborhoods and emit toxic pollutants. The Town has received complaints from residents, and they have asked for additional enforcement. The police will increase enforcement starting in November, and will proactively enforce our municipal code while on patrol. Officers will warn the homeowner, or the person on their property using the blower once. Additional violations in the presence of an officer will result in the issuance of a citation to the property owner. Citations have a \$100 fine (per violation) which is prescribed by our current municipal code.



AGE FRIENDLY CORNER

Tips to live long and well in Ross



FRIENDSHIP is important to your health and well-being, no matter what age you are. Also making and keeping friends with someone who is not

your age can be exceedingly rewarding. Here are some interesting articles and studies about friendship that we hope you will find interesting. Share them with a friend!

- <https://states.aarp.org/maine/aging-fearlessly-the-importance-of-friends-as-you-age>
- <https://www.aetna.com/health-guide/importance-of-friends-as-you-age.html>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6441127/>
- <https://www.healthline.com/health/how-to-make-friends-at-any-age>
- <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/relationships/a32669687/older-friends/>
- <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/wellness-and-prevention/do-you-have-a-healthy-number-of-friends>

RECREATION NEWS

The fall session is wrapping up and the recreation department is excited as we move into the New Year. Thanks to all the kids that came out for soccer and played their hearts out, it was a blast watching everyone work as a team and see their skills improve over the session.

The winter session is now **OPEN** for registration (www.rossrecreation.org). Kid's Club (the extended care program held on the Ross School campus) will be returning on January 4th. The program will run Mon-Fri, dismissal-5pm and follow the Ross School calendar. There are three registration options available (5, 3 or 2-days). Kid's Club will be a safe and enriching place for your child(ren) to come afterschool where they will do arts, crafts, baking, outdoor free play, homework and much more. Your child(ren) will be brought directly from class to Kid's Club. There are still openings, so please reach out to the recreation office team for help with registration or to answer any questions.



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Register for your holiday camps now! The Recreation Department is thrilled to offer a Thanksgiving week camp (Mon-Wed) and two-weeks on Winter Holiday Camps (12/19-12/30). These camps will be taught by Holly Salamun and be held at Phoenix Lake, weather permitting. If there is rain, the camps will be held in the Ross Recreation classroom on the Ross School campus. There are pro-rating options, if your child(ren) can't attend the entire week. There is nothing better than spending time with friends out in nature, these camps are a wonderful respite from the busyness of the holidays.

The recreation staff is available by e-mail (rossrec@rossrecreation.org), to answer any questions about our programs and always happy to help. Please feel free to reach out or stop by the office (Mon-Fri, 2-5pm).

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2022

Nov 10	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Nov 11	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Veterans Day
Nov 15	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Nov 24-25	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday

DECEMBER 2022

Dec 3	3:00	pm	Winterfest 2022, Ross Common (<i>see Page 3 for details</i>)
Dec 5	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
Dec 8	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Dec 20	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Dec 26-30	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for the Christmas/New Year's holidays

JANUARY 2023

Jan 9	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
Jan 12	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Jan 16	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Jan 17	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

CONTACT US

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- 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	
- alopez-vega@townofross.org			

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Visit us at www.townofross.org



Email

We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email

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