

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 | Issue 4 | April 2023

Mayor's Corner



Mayor P. Beach Kuhl

This month's meeting comes with the Town fairly quiet with many families out of town because of spring break at the schools. I hope we have substantial remote participation because at least one of the subjects on the agenda, the facilities master plan, will have long term effects on the Town. To recap, we are closing our outdated public safety building in

2025, and we are in the process of planning the new facilities. The consultants who are assisting us in developing plans for a new facility are reporting tonight and their written report is available online [here](#). The estimated costs have not unexpectedly risen considerably since we started this process several years ago and one of the issues will be whether to bear the increased cost of keeping the Fire Department façade along Sir Francis Drake and the Spanish architecture.

Please feel free to weigh in on this issue. We will be letting our staff know our thoughts, but not making any final decisions until probably this summer.

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EYES UP, MARIN

Let's Make our Streets Safer for Everyone!

From April 11 through the end of May, you will again see bright and colorful banners and lawn signs popping up all over Marin asking people to keep their "Eyes Up" and be alert. These signs will be asking drivers to slow down, watch when turning and look for pedestrians in the crosswalk; bicyclists to yield to pedestrians and to follow the rules of the road; and those walking to pay attention when crossing the street.

The Eyes Up, Marin campaign is part of the Street Smarts Program and Safe Routes to Schools, locally funded programs of the Transportation Authority of Marin. This traffic safety campaign educates drivers, pedestrians and cyclists about safety issues, including distracted driving. The goal is to encourage people to adopt and practice attitudes and behaviors that will reduce the number of traffic-related accidents and make our streets safer for everyone.

The program focuses on placing outdoor messaging at "hotspots" throughout Marin County – bold reminders at the locations where traffic problems occur most frequently.

Our countywide partners including school districts, jurisdictions, emergency service providers, and community organizations will be sharing the new campaign images and safety messages widely.

www.streetsmartsmarin.org.



On the flood protection front, I attended a meeting of the San Anselmo Town council, at which the County Water staff reported. What San Anselmo decides to do could affect a number of homes in Ross. The County staff along with the floodplain managers from Ross and San Anselmo are about to meet with Federal Emergency Management Agency staff, whose regulations control the amount of mitigation that must be provided to homeowners affected by changes. The County staff has indicated that they plan to start construction of the Ross aspects of their plan, most notably removal of the fish ladder, in summer 2024. The current staff seems determined to get something done but, after all these years, I think we need to wait and see.

The third issue, not on this month's agenda, is the housing element. We will have a report on the comments received on our draft housing element next month. A draft environmental impact report is currently out for comment and available on the Town website. Our planning director, Rebecca Markwick, will be reporting next month, and we will have a special meeting on May 31 to certify our environmental impact report and adopt the housing element. Any input you can provide us on these issues is appreciated. In the meantime, enjoy the nice weather that seems finally to have reached us.

~~Mayor P. Beach Kuhl ■

The Chipper Day Program is Returning to Marin for the 2023 Season!

Preseason signups are open now!

The program has been restructured to improve the season while still guaranteeing the same excellent service you have come to expect.

What's new?

- The chipper program will now offer 5 pickup opportunities to all residents within the MWPA jurisdiction. These events will be spaced evenly through the season and will occur roughly every 5 weeks for all residents
- The signup website has been improved! Residents will now be able to "drop a pin" at the exact location where they will be placing their pile. Piles will still need to be located close to the roadway and in an easily visible location for the crews.
- Residents will now be able to view their reservation status, so that they can verify if the pickup is still outstanding or has been retrieved if they are away from home. They will also be able to cancel from the same viewing page.
- Text alerts will be sent out at the beginning of each event week to remind those who have signed up that the chipper is coming.

The Chipper Day program is a great resource for residents who are looking to remove hazardous vegetation and create defensible space around their home.

The program's increased pickup schedule will ensure that all residents have ample opportunities to take advantage of the service throughout the year. To sign up, please visit <https://reserve.chipperday.com/marin> and enter your address to view the dates that the chipper will be in your area and to sign up! If you have any questions, please email chipper@firesafemarin.org.



PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the April 13, 2023 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's April 13 website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council.

Address: 1 El Camino Bueno
Applicant: David Bilsker
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Kircher recused)

Address: 2 Pomeroy Road
Applicant: Erica and David Bell
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 50 Wellington
Applicant: Elizabeth and Patrick Quigney
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 34 Poplar Avenue
Applicant: Jeff and Cassie Shouger
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 28 Walnut Avenue
Applicant: John and Gabrielle Bressack
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Art and Nature The Perfect Weekend Pairing

What: Marin Open Studios free, self-guided tours of artists' studios

When: May 6-7 and 13-14 11a-6p

Where: Marin Art and Garden Center (as well as spaces all across Marin County)

Why: Meet, view, and purchase directly from twelve local artists in one centrally-located spot, then enjoy the beautiful grounds

Details: no entry fee, free on-site parking

Bonus perk: perfect Mother's Day excursion to celebrate the nurturers in your life

Featured artwork:
"Reina"
by Rachel Perls



Magen Hayashi, New Ross Police Officer

The Town of Ross hired Magen Hayashi on April 4, 2023. She lives in Mill Valley with her 14-year-old twins and her Golden Retriever.

Magen started her law enforcement career at a local Marin County police department. She also worked as a Federal Probation Officer, and most recently was a District Attorney Investigator for a Bay Area District Attorney's Office.

Magen has a Master's Degree in forensic psychology. She is originally from Texas and was drawn to Ross because she enjoys our hiking trails and wants to develop personal police relationships in a smaller town environment. Magen will be in our training program for approximately 6 to 10 weeks.

Fire-Smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners

APRIL: It's spring! Assess The Fire Risk To Your Property and Think Lean, Clean and Green



The small tree to the right may have to be moved as it might be too close to the house.

- **Lean:** Allow space between individual plants, or plant in small, irregular clusters or islands with non-combustible material pathways.
- **Clean:** Remove dried grass, weeds, dead branches, and all other dead vegetation. Check gutters, roof, eaves, vents, chimneys, under decks or elevated porches for leaf and needle litter. Thin and reduce interior and exterior tree canopies.
- **Green:** Properly irrigated plants with healthy soil remain healthy, green, and less prone to fire, summer through fall. Check your irrigation system regularly for leaks or malfunctions. Applying compost and mulches helps stabilize soil temperature and prevent evaporation. Areas 0-5' from structures, use non-combustible mulches like rock, gravel, and stone. 5-30" from structures, composted woodchips or bark nuggets to a depth of two inches is best. Avoid fine, stringy mulches.

FOR MORE FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPING INFORMATION VISIT UC MARIN MASTER GARDENER WEBSITE: <http://ucanr.edu/ucmarinmgfiresmart>



AGE FRIENDLY CORNER

Congregate Meals, What Are They?

In –person congregate meals are back! Please join in for a warm, nutritious meal at your local meal site. You must be 60+ years of age. There is a suggested contribution of \$3, although, no eligible participant will be denied service.

The Congregate Meals Program serves nutritious meals to older adults in a group setting with an opportunity to socialize with others. In some cases, the program also provides nutrition education, nutrition risk screening, and nutrition counseling.

Where: Corte Madera Community Center

When: Every Thursday at noon

What else: For more information or to sign up, call 415.473.4636

Website: [click here](#)



RECREATION NEWS

SUMMER CAMP AND PROGRAM REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Register online at www.rossrecreation.org or by calling 415.453.6020.

FUN FOR YOUTH!

- ◆ Holly Hoppin Nature Play Adventure at Phoenix Lake (Grades 1-5)
- ◆ Ross Bears Kinder Camp (Entering Kindergarten)
- ◆ Music With Dani (Toddlers/Preschool)
- ◆ Dance Remix Camp (Kinder-3rd grade)
- ◆ Sporty Girl Sports Camp (Grades 1-6)
- ◆ Top Gun Session with Cameron Perry (Grades 1-5)
- ◆ Gone Fishin'! (Grades 1-5)
- ◆ Off the Block S.T.E.M. with LEGO (Grades1-5)
- ◆ AND MORE!

FUN FOR ADULTS!

- ◆ Learn to play Tennis or sharpen up your skills for the summer season
- ◆ Take a Chi Gong class and use exercise to optimize energy within the body, mind, and spirit, with the goal of improving and maintaining health and well-being by practicing
- ◆ Watch for new Pickleball Classes and tournaments!

To see a full list of Spring offerings: www.rossrecreation.org.

If a class you want is full, be sure to get on the waitlist!



It's time to play PICKLEBALL!

New pickleball lines for four courts and portable nets were recently installed at the south courts at Fredrick S. Allen Park. Call 415.453.6020 to purchase your access key. Keys are \$100.



Fire Science & Fire Career Workshop for Teens

Hands-on learning about wildfire, firewise landscapes, emergency planning, firefighting, and careers.

April 1, 9am-2pm - Santa Rosa
April 15, 9am-2pm - Angwin
April 22, 9am-2pm - San Rafael

Register at least 3 days in advance. \$10.
Seats are limited. <http://ucanr.edu/yfire>



The University of California Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources (UC ANR) is an equal opportunity provider.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2023

Apr 27 9am-2pm Annual Budget Workshop (Town Hall & Zoom)

MAY 2023

May 8 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
 May 11 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
 May 16 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
 May 31 6:00 pm Special Town Council Meeting-EIR Certification (Town Hall & Zoom)

JUNE 2023

June 5 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
 June 8 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
 June 20 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

JULY 2023

July 4 All Day Town Hall Administrative Offices Closed
 July 10 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
 July 13 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
 July 18 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

CONTACT US

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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



We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email cmartel@townofross.org

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