

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 | Issue 1 | January 2023

### Mayor's Corner

Greetings and Happy New Year. As we persevere through the cold and rainy days of winter, we can look forward to nicer, longer days and more time outdoors. We can also look forward to Town Council activities which will have a significant impact on our town.



P. Beach Kuhl  
Mayor

Most immediately, the Council will shortly have to consider changes in the way the Ross Valley Fire Department, of which the Town is one of four participant communities, operates. Currently, our chief and administrative services are provided under a contract with the Marin County Fire Department which terminates in August. So RVFD has engaged consultants expert in fire department administration to advise on possible new arrangements. Those consultants have reported to

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## Water, Water Everywhere...

The 2023 New Year started out with a real bang as the first in a continuing series of potent Pacific storms began moving through our area. In December 2022 alone we received a total of 17.8 inches of rain (based on MMWD's rain gauge at Lake Lagunitas) bringing us to 119% of average rainfall for that date. As of Tuesday, January 10, 2023 we have added another 12.3 inches of rain to the December totals bringing us to a total of 35.4 inches or 155% above normal for the water year, which began July 1, 2022.



Unlike some parts of California, Ross has "weathered" the storms relatively well, thanks in some part to winter preparedness efforts by residents, Marin County emergency operations personnel, and Town staff. After the annual "Winter is coming" Town-wide notification went out on November 2 (which predicted "the possibility of some potent atmospheric rivers as we moved into 2023..."), public works staff took note of many residents clearing out roadside ditches and drainage ways throughout the Town, which kept leaves and debris from clogging the Town's pipes and

drains when the big rains hit. Public Works maintenance staff continue to clear drains, trees, and debris from the drainage ways and restock the sand and sandbags stationed at the entrance of Natalie Coffin Greene Park for residents use during the rains, which are forecasted to continue. A big thank you to everyone in Town who is doing their part to keep us all safe and dry!

Finally, although our Marin reservoirs are now at 100% full, we need to remember that most of California's reservoirs remain only around 60% full. So let's be thankful for the rain that we get and hope we get what we need to enjoy the year ahead.



the board of RVFD, which will shortly reach a decision, subject to the approval of the member entities. Our Council will consider this subject in upcoming Council meetings.

Next, our flood control project, and those of neighboring communities, are being led by the County of Marin. Compliance with federal floodway regulations have apparently slowed progress but we expect shortly to receive a status report and a plan for moving forward.

In coming months, the Council will receive from our design consultants a proposal for reconstruction of our Civic Center once our Fire house is closed in 2025. We need to design a new facility to house our police department, ambulance and paramedics and administrative services. the process of planning those new facilities will be ongoing over an extended time.

In addition to these major activities, we expect to continue improvements to the Commons and to work on our housing plan.

Finally, by the end of the year municipal election campaigns will be starting up. We expect the Ross Town Council to have at least two openings to be filled in 2024.

It should be a busy year and a productive one for the Council. I urge you to continue to provide your input. Resident participation really does assist the Council in providing our community the best quality results. ■



## Recognition of Jeneane Wagner for 5 years of Service



Jeneane Wagner  
Recreation Specialist

Jeneane has been working for the recreation department for over 5 years as a Recreation Specialist.

She has a background in international marketing and event planning and has used her experience to develop many new programs for the Ross community. She is passionate about the community and the Recreation Department.

Jeneane grew up in Ross and went to Ross Elementary School, where her son now attends.

Jeneane holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Mills College, and a minor in photography. She loves the outdoors and spends her free time hiking on Mount Tam.



## Welcome to Maureen Borthwick New Recreation Manager

The Town of Ross is pleased to welcome Maureen Borthwick as the town's new Recreation Manager. After a 12+ year career in retail marketing and events, Maureen found her passion in recreation and community engagement, using her experience in project management and events to create programs that enrich the lives of residents in the community. She has been in the recreation field for 6 years, working at Belvedere-Tiburon Joint Recreation (The Ranch) as their Adult Programs and Rentals Supervisor before moving her career to the Town of Ross.



Maureen Borthwick  
Incoming Recreation

With her husband, Bryan, and 16-month-old daughter, Maeve, Maureen, and her family recently moved from San Anselmo to Petaluma. Originally from upstate NY, Maureen graduated from SUNY Geneseo with a degree in Psychology and Biology and has been living on the West Coast for over 10 years. She is a certified and practiced Birth Doula who enjoys spending her time with family and friends hiking, playing recreational sports, drinking coffee. Maureen is excited to enhance the experience of living in Ross through recreation and to make a connection with as many residents as she can. Maureen's contact information is (415) 453-6020, [mborthwick@townofross.org](mailto:mborthwick@townofross.org).

## PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the January 12, 2023 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's January 12 website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted on this page after adoption by the Council.

**Address: 78 Shady Lane**  
**Applicant: Tatyana Mironova**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Brekhus recused)**

**Address: 160 Lagunitas Road**  
**Applicant: AJ and Melissa Rhode**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

## Flooding in Marin

### What you need to know to keep safe...

The recent rainfall in Marin comes as a double-edged sword. We desperately need the water after years of drought, but the kind of torrential rain we've seen lately causes flooding and dangerous conditions.

Join us for a **Special Webinar, Flooding in Marin, on January 30th from 6:00 - 6:30 pm** to learn how to prepare yourself and your community. Our guests include **Sean Condry**, Director of Public Works & Building for San Anselmo, **Gavin Illingworth**, Battalion Chief of the Ross Valley Fire Department, and **Leah Budu**, Caltrans Bay Area Deputy District Director, Maintenance Division.

[Click Here to Register](#)

*In partnership with Fire Safe Marin, Ross Valley Fire, Ready-Marin, Caltrans, and Town of San Anselmo*



### Monthly Fire Safety Message: The Myth of Rain

Many people think that winter rainfall can help predict how severe wildfire season will be. That's not true. Be prepared for wildfires by using wintertime to do the work to protect your home.



Video: <https://youtu.be/vYZaPk7JINo>

Learn more at [www.firesafemarin.org](http://www.firesafemarin.org)



## Fire-Smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners

### JANUARY: Time to Prune!

- Trim and remove all dead & dying vegetation.
- Cut back vines and low-growing groundcovers (e.g. ivy) to remove build-up of dry stems and dead leaves.
- Prune trees when dormant (except apricot and cherry).
- Gently thin and trim back tree & shrub canopies to remove twiggy growth and maintain separation between plants.
- For trees, remove limbs 6 to 10 feet from the ground, or trim up to 1/3 of tree height for smaller trees.
- Avoid topping trees and shearing hedges as this causes excessive and twiggy growth and more fuel for a fire.
- Remove branches within 10 ft of chimney, and clean roof & gutters of plant debris. Consult an arborist regarding any branch removal, especially to ensure the health of the tree.



FOR MORE FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPING INFORMATION VISIT UC MARIN MASTER GARDENERS WEBSITE:

[www.ucanr.edu/ucmarinmgfiresmart](http://www.ucanr.edu/ucmarinmgfiresmart)

## Two Climate Action Workshops Coming in January

### Learn to Live Lightly on the Earth

In the online *Climate Action Workshop* offered by Resilient Neighborhoods, you will adopt an earth-sustaining lifestyle, create a low-impact home, and learn how to be resilient in our new 'normal.' Taking simple actions like trimming energy and waste, utilizing clean energy, conserving water, and making smarter transportation choices can save you money too.

Help build a stronger and safer community. Free for Marin residents! The next 5-session workshops start on Jan 12 and Jan 18.

[>>Learn More and Sign Up Here.](#)





## Ross School Community Open House & Annual Fund

Hard work is underway to ensure that the 2022-23 school year is full of growth, engagement, opportunity, community, and joy. Support from the entire Ross School District community is why we have achieved so much.

Ross School invites all district residents to a community open house to learn what is planned for the coming year. Please join Interim Superintendent David Rice on **Thursday, January 26th at 9 AM or 6:30 PM** in the school library. *RSVP* for the open house and register to receive district updates [here](#).

In addition, the Ross School Annual Fund is currently underway. As the school's largest giving priority, we raise money each year to ensure that Ross School, the only National Blue Ribbon Award-winning public school in Marin, is able to maintain strong academic programming, special programs, low student-to-teacher ratios, high-quality teachers, and well-maintained facilities. Ross School relies heavily on property taxes (57%) and private donations (17%) to fund its day-to-day operations. Last year, 97% of our parents donated an average of \$5,000 per child. Donations of any amount are welcome and are fully tax deductible.



To donate, learn more, or view our 2021-22 community donors, visit [www.RossSchoolFoundation.org](http://www.RossSchoolFoundation.org)

## AGE FRIENDLY CORNER

*Tips to live long and well in Ross*

### Age Friendly Valentine's Day luncheon celebration

Please join us on **February 15, 2023**, at the Marin Art and Garden Center to honor Ross residents 80+ years, (but all ages are welcome!) Enjoy great food, fine conversation, beautiful music from the Branson School cappella choir, lovely art by Cedar's residents and some surprises! The celebration starts at 11:30am and ends at 1:30pm. Parking is available at Marin Art and Garden Center.

Attendance is limited so register by February 7 for this "no cost" celebration, at [rossrec@rossrecreation.org](mailto:rossrec@rossrecreation.org) or [call 415-453-6020](tel:415-453-6020). If you know an older Ross resident, especially someone 80+ years, please let them know about this event. When you register, let us know if someone 80+ years of age is coming with you or if you need transportation to or from the event.

Contact [rossrec@rossrecreation.org](mailto:rossrec@rossrecreation.org) or call: 415-453-6020 with questions.

The Ross Age Friendly Task Force

## RECREATION NEWS

The Ross Rec department is excited to start the 2023 winter session. Basketball has begun both at Bacich and Ross and the games will begin this Saturday (1/14)! Coach Schafer and Coach Jackson are looking forward to a fun basketball season! In addition to basketball, there are many other winter enrichment programs being offered. The programs that currently have openings at Ross School are Academic Chess, Hip Hop, Middle School Music Production, and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Ball-



room. You can find the full list of winter offerings on the Ross Rec website ([www.rossrecreation.org](http://www.rossrecreation.org)). If the classes you are interested in are full, make sure to get on the wait-list.



Kid's Club has returned! Kid's Club is the extended care option for Ross School and will run from dismissal-5pm, Mon-Fri. The program will follow the school calendar and offer a combination of activities including crafts, games, sports, free choice time and help with homework. There are openings all days of the week and you can register online or email the Ross Rec office staff for assistance ([rossrec@rossrecreation.org](mailto:rossrec@rossrecreation.org)).



There will be a Mid-Winter break camp offered the week of February 20<sup>th</sup> by Holly Salamun and will be held at Phoenix Lake (weather permitting). Make sure to sign up before the spots fill up!

The January session of adult Chi Gong began this week and is on Thursdays from 10-11am. The program is held on the Ross Common or inside the Ross Rec Classroom (if raining). Chi Gong is the ancient Chinese practice of movement and meditation, deeply rooted in the balance and harmony of nature. We look forward to seeing you there!

Lastly, please welcome the new Recreation Manager, Maureen Borthwick to the Ross Recreation family! She will see you around town.

# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 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)

## FEBRUARY 2023

Feb 6	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
Feb 9	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Feb 20	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Presidents Day
Feb 21	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

## MARCH 2023

Mar 6	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
Mar 9	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Mar 21	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

## CONTACT US

Administration Office	415-453-1453 x105	Police Department	415-453-1453, Opt. 2
- <a href="mailto:cmartel@townofross.org">cmartel@townofross.org</a>		- <a href="mailto:rpata@townofross.org">rpata@townofross.org</a>	
Building Department	415-453-1453 x106	Public Works Director	415-453-1453 x115
- <a href="mailto:breher@townofross.org">breher@townofross.org</a>		- <a href="mailto:rsimonitch@townofross.org">rsimonitch@townofross.org</a>	
Bldg Inspection Hotline	415-453-1453 x170	Recreation Department	415-453-6020
- <a href="mailto:erobbe@townofross.org">erobbe@townofross.org</a>		- <a href="mailto:rossrec@rossrecreation.org">rossrec@rossrecreation.org</a>	
Planning/Building Director	415-453-1453 x121	Ross Valley Fire Dept	415-258-4686
- <a href="mailto:rmarkwick@townofross.org">rmarkwick@townofross.org</a>		Town Manager	415-453-1453 x107
Planner	415-453-1453 x116	- <a href="mailto:cjohnson@townofross.org">cjohnson@townofross.org</a>	
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Visit us at [www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org)



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