

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 | Issue 9 | September 2023

### Mayor's Corner



Mayor Elizabeth Brekhus

I hope everyone can attend the Town Dinner on Friday September 22<sup>nd</sup>! If it appeals to you, you might consider sitting at the Community Tables where the Council will be sitting. The Community Tables will be for residents who wish to dine with other residents. Feel free to bring a dish to share if you like but no pressure. I am sure the Town Dinner will be a great success and in advance, a big thank you to Ross Recreation and Ross Town staff for all their work.

The Ross Historical Society asked me to speak at a luncheon on 9/7/23. On the historical side, I tapped former councilmembers and mayors, Peter Brekhus, Gary Scales and Charlie Goodman.

The most obvious change in town operations is the professionalism of town management. We presently have 11 town employees, additional part-time Rec staff, 8 employees with the police, with fire staffed by a separate department.

Past councilmembers actually ran the town and performed the town services. There was a part-time building inspector up until the 90's, no planning staff until the 90's and certainly no town manager. In one flood emergency, two councilmembers rescued residents on Shady Lane in a canoe, and councilmembers personally raised money to light all the bridges and redo the Common and the post office.

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### Tips from Ross PD: Trending This Month: Auto Theft and Traffic Enforcement



Chief Pata

This column is designed to provide quick reminders of things you can do to elevate safety and security around your home and property. We will also share some crime and safety trends we are seeing in our town and the County of Marin.

#### Trending This Month:

##### Auto Theft

Our town has experienced an upward trend in stolen vehicles lately. In all cases, the cars were unlocked, parked on the street, with the keys left inside. These types of thefts are usually crimes of opportunity, they don't necessarily mean the town is being targeted by car thieves. More than likely, people passing through town are looking for an opportunity to steal, or perhaps find a ride out of the area. They will check doors as they walk along. If they find a car unlocked with the keys inside, they are likely to take the car as a ride home. Here are things you can do to prevent auto theft:

- Park in a well-lit area, if you can
- Hide valuables (best to take them with you)
- Lock your doors.
- Activate your alarm.
- Don't hide your key in the car, the thief will find it.

##### Traffic Enforcement

Traffic is a problem in many communities in Marin. Each year as school begins in our town, traffic becomes more significant. Residents have called in and helped us identify areas of concern. We respond by rotating traffic enforcement with the officer on duty. This year, an officer was scheduled to work beyond their shift for the first weeks of school to provide extra traffic enforcement in the morning. We can't be everywhere, but we can, and do rotate through the following areas:

- Sir Francis Drake near Winship
- Sir Francis Drake at Bolinas Rd.
- Bolinas Rd. at Shady Lane
- Laurel Grove at Canyon
- Lagunitas at Shady Lane and Allen Avenue.

You can help by remembering:

- Not to turn left from Bolinas Road to Shady Lane M-F from 7AM to 9AM.
- Not to make U-Turns on Ross Common near the Post Office.
- To share the road with bicyclists and scooters. If you are the parent of a bike or scooter rider, please remind them to wear their helmets and obey traffic laws, such as stopping for stop signs.

It was not until the mid-80's that the Town had overnight police service. And we went from a volunteer fire department to a staffed department of professionals in the span of one generation of councilmembers. The corresponding expense of that is obviously a very significant change to the Town budget and taxes.

One of the biggest changes to the Town was the creation of Ross Recreation in the early 1970's. A large group of residents/parents wrote to the council asking for after care programs. The council was reluctant to expand the services to include recreation, but parents persisted, and the recreation committee was formed.

It was not until the mid-80's that the Town had a tree ordinance prohibiting the removal of trees which came after the Lagunitas Club removed 39 Redwoods. The public outcry was covered in the local press and the Council was able to pass a regulation prohibiting tree removal. My father was one of the councilmembers who drafted the original design review guidelines, which he based on his experience with ordinances working as an attorney in the County.

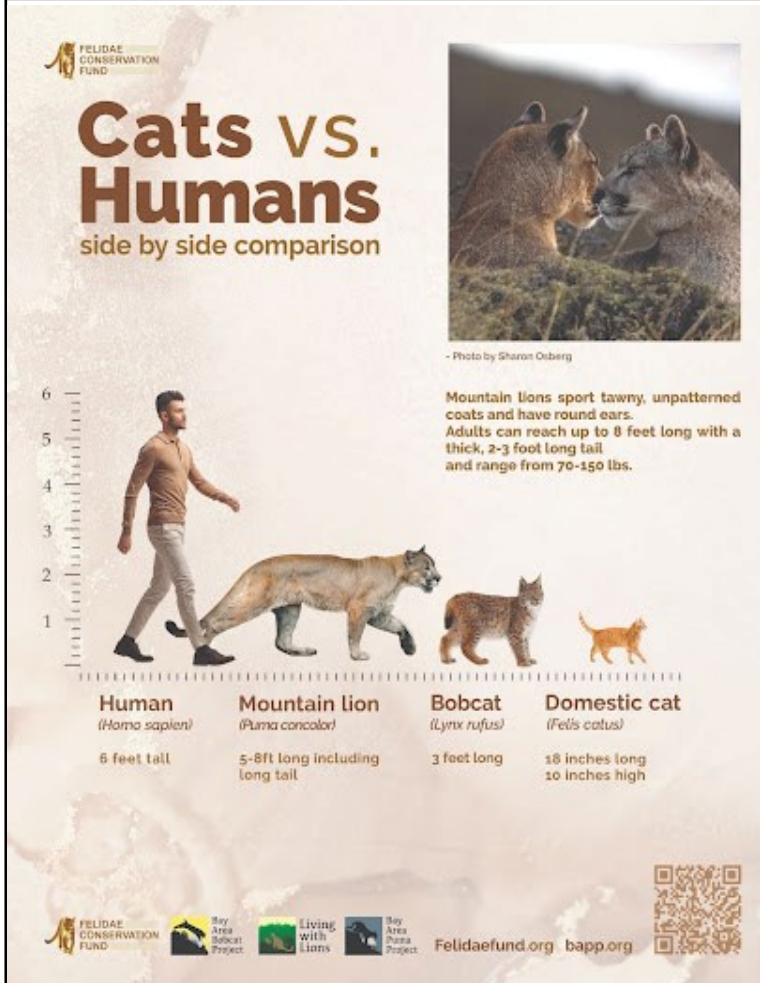
As many of you know, Ross does not have a planning commission and the council then and now serves that dual function which is unique from other jurisdictions. In 2005-06 there could be as many as 5 agenda items on flooding. One closed session item noted there were 34 government claims (i.e., for damages) filed regarding the flooding incident of 12/31/05 and 1/6/06. Speaking of flooding, for those of you who were here for the flooding in the 1980's you will recall as I do that Town residents went house to house on Shady Lane cleaning up mud in homes and after a few months most residents were out on the Common laying down the new grass to replace the fields that were ruined.

Today's legal requirements for legislation in a small town are incredible and much of the council's time is spent passing regulations to comply with state law. In years past, Councilmembers ignored various state regulations with which they did not want to comply. That practice is gone.

I don't want you to have the impression that the Council does not roll up their sleeves and work. An example of that is Elizabeth Robbins' volunteer efforts to save and purchase Mt. Baldy. Every one of the present councilmembers is volunteering a tremendous amount of time and contributing in different ways.

I hope you enjoyed the history lesson and as always, feel free to let me know if you have questions or concerns about the Town.

~~Mayor Elizabeth Brekhus



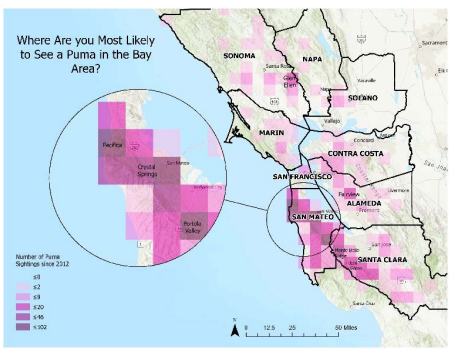
**Cats vs. Humans**  
side by side comparison

Mountain lions sport tawny, unpatterned coats and have round ears. Adults can reach up to 8 feet long with a thick, 2-3 foot long tail and range from 70-150 lbs.

Human	Mountain lion	Bobcat	Domestic cat
<i>(Homo sapiens)</i>	<i>(Puma concolor)</i>	<i>(Lynx rufus)</i>	<i>(Felis catus)</i>
6 feet tall	5-8ft long including long tail	3 feet long	18 inches long 10 inches high

Felidae Conservation Fund | Bay Area Bobcat Project | Living with Lions | Bay Area Puma Project | FelidaeFund.org | bapp.org

### PUMA (MOUNTAIN LION) OR BOBCAT?



Where Are you Most Likely to See a Puma in the Bay Area?

While there is evidence of only two pumas visiting Marin County (specifically in West Marin), it is important to know how to identify them and the more common bobcat, and know what to do if you get close to one.

Pumas have fairly long tails in comparison to their bodies whereas the maximum tail length for a bobcat is ~6 inches. The long and short of it is, pumas very rarely attack humans, but best practice is not to approach them, keep children and pets near you, and stand your ground (i.e. do not run away). It's always a good idea to keep pets on leash and be aware of your surroundings.

Mountain lions are most active at dawn and dusk so that is when you should be the most vigilant. If you should see one, it is most likely just moving through the area.

Visit "Living Alongside Wildcats" for more information:  
<https://felidaefund.org/learn/living-alongside-wild-cats>

## PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the September 14, 2023 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's September 14 website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council.

**Address: 1 Pomeroy Road**  
**Applicant: Gina Weyant**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 128 Winding Way**  
**Applicant: Kellogg Architects, Inc.**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 3 Ross Common**  
**Applicant: Adnan Daken and Dena Bliss**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 7 Ross Common**  
**Applicant: Magen Sledge**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

## State of the Town of Ross

More than 60 people attended the State of the Town of Ross, a presentation by Mayor Elizabeth Brekhus and Town Manager Christa Johnson held at the Livermore Pavillon in the Marin Art and Garden Center. The presentation was followed by a luncheon.

Mayor Brekhus related her experiences as a Council Member and how the duties of Council Members have evolved over the years. She developed an historical perspective from several previous Council Members, including her father, Peter Brekhus, as well as former Council Members Charlie Goodman and Gary Scales.

Town Manager Christa Johnson highlighted some of the Town's recent accomplishments and presented some of the projects, issues and programs on which the Town will focus this year.

The event was hosted by the Ross Historical Society / Moya Library as one of their seven "First Thursday Forenoon" presentations held annually. Their next presentation will be held on October 5th at 11:00 am and is based on a recently acquired 150-year old painting's depiction of life at Ross Landing during that period.



## Annual Ross Creek Walk & Cleanup Day—Thank you to all the volunteers!



On Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> Ross Dept of Public Works conducted its annual Community Creek Clean-Up to ensure Ross creeks are prepared for the upcoming winter. FEMA recognizes this annual maintenance activity as an effective means of reducing the potential for flood damage to our community.

All of our storm drain inlets and culverts drain directly into the creeks. Picking up the trash in the creeks not only help provide healthy habitats for countless animals but also prevents more pollution from entering the San Francisco Bay. Trees are vital in a riparian zone since they help cool the water and also prevent bank erosion, but they drop a lot of branches throughout the year. Large branches in the creek could potentially cause obstructions and localized flooding.

Photo:

25 volunteers met at the Post Office eager to help beautify and safeguard Ross' creeks. One group of volunteers dropped down into Ross creek near the Glenwood bridge. The second group dropped into Kittle creek from Laurel Grove near MAGC. Between the two groups three yards of tree branches and 4 fifty-five gallon bags of trash were pulled out and disposed of.

Special thanks to Mr. Schimdt who teaches at Ross Middle School. Mr. Schmidt not only helps recruit kids from Ross looking for volunteer hours but also comes out every year to help with the clean-up. Ross DPW appreciates your efforts to ensure this event is successful every year.



## STAY CONNECTED:

Sign up for Fire Safe Marin Newsletter [here](#).



Sign up for emergency info from the county [here](#).



Nixle: text your zip code to 888-777



List your address with Alert Marin, [here](#).



PG&E Power Shut off info, [here](#).





GATHER YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!

# The Ross Town Dinner

FRIDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2023

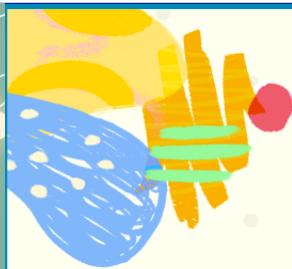
5:30-9:00PM

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BY THE COSMO ALLEYCATS  
LIVE SWING DANCING WITH JASMINE WORRELL DANCE  
BYO FOOD AND BEVERAGES  
TABLES, CHAIRS, TABLECLOTHS PROVIDED  
COMMUNITY TABLES FOR INDIVIDUAL GUESTS

REGISTER TODAY

[rossrecreation.org/ross-town-dinner](http://rossrecreation.org/ross-town-dinner)

(415) 453-6020



## ROSS RECREATION FALL FUN

REGISTER TODAY AT [ROSSRECREATION.ORG](http://ROSSRECREATION.ORG) / (415) 453-6020

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Kids Club Afterschool
- Father Daughter Dance!
- New Schafer Games at Ross
- Hip Hop with Chelsea
- Vocals Class
- Amazing Art for Kids
- Ukulele at Ross
- Lacrosse w/ Jean Marc
- Soccer League
- Basketball League
- Early Release Sandrick Sports
- TGA Golf
- Off the Block S.T.E.M. w/ LEGO
- Academic Chess
- AND MORE!

### ADULT PROGRAMS

- Tennis classes
- Pickleball clinics
- Ross Round Robin Pickleball tournament, 9/17
- Stretch and strengthen w/ Megan Scott!
- Wreath making classes
- Technology4Life classes for Seniors
- Meet new friends at the Age Friendly social gathering
- AND MORE!

DON'T FORGET TO BUY YOUR TICKET FOR THE  
ROSS TOWN DINNER ON FRIDAY, 9/22!

# BE PREPARED

The Town of Ross is committed to disaster preparedness and building community resilience. Learn how to prepare for emergencies at the following events.

#### September 13

Age Friendly Ross Breakfast  
Cedars of Marin  
9:30-11:30am  
rsvp to  
[agefriendly@townofross.org](mailto:agefriendly@townofross.org)

#### September 20

Ross Firewise Event  
MAGC  
Livermore Pavilion  
5:30-7:00pm  
rsvp to  
[barberwinship@gmail.com](mailto:barberwinship@gmail.com)

#### September 22

Ross Town Dinner  
Ross Common  
5:30-9:00pm  
rsvp at  
[rossrecreation.org](http://rossrecreation.org)

#### October 14

Live on the Common  
Ross Common  
2:30-7:00pm

Be disaster ready by signing up for AlertMarin at [AlertMarin.org](http://AlertMarin.org), by scanning the QR code, and learning more at [firesafemarin.org](http://firesafemarin.org).



Questions? Call or visit us online.  
[www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org) ~ (415) 453-1453 ext 105



## POWERED & PREPARED



Act now. Make a Plan!

*Resources for people with disabilities and older adults in Marin*

- ⇒ Prioritize health needs and create lists.
- ⇒ Create emergency supply kits.
- ⇒ Find three trusted allies and share your plan.
- ⇒ Plan how, when and where to evacuate.

Get more information [here](#).



# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER 2023

- Sept 19 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Sept 20 5:30 pm Ross Firewise Be Prepared Event (Livermore Pavilion, MAGC)
- Sept 22 5:30 pm Ross Town Dinner (Ross Common)

## OCTOBER 2023

- Oct 9 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
- Oct 12 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Oct 14 2:30 pm Live on the Common

## NOVEMBER 2023

- Nov 6 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
- Nov 9 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Nov 10 All Day Veterans Day Holiday (Town offices closed)
- Nov 14 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Nov 23 & 24 All Day Thanksgiving Holiday (Town offices closed)

## 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/Bldg Interim Dir  | 415-453-1453 x121 | Ross Valley Fire Dept  | 415-258-4686         |
| - <a href="mailto:dwoltering@townofross.org">dwoltering@townofross.org</a>   |                   | Town Manager   | 415-453-1453 x107    |
| Planner  | 415-453-1453 x116 | - <a href="mailto:cjohnson@townofross.org">cjohnson@townofross.org</a>       |                      |
| - <a href="mailto:alopez-vega@townofross.org">alopez-vega@townofross.org</a> |                   |  |                      |

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Visit us at [www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org)



We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email [cmartel@townofross.org](mailto:cmartel@townofross.org)

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