

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 | Issue 11 | November 2015

Mayor's Corner



Katie Hoertkorn

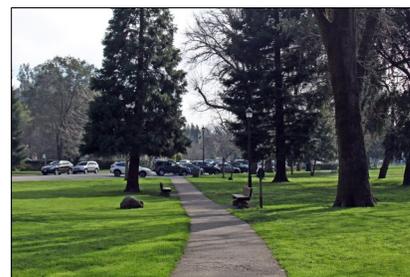
Community involvement is one of Ross's most obvious traits. Whether it's volunteering for one of our towns committees, the Ross School, one of our churches, Marin Art and Garden Center, Ross Rec, Ross Auxiliary, the Ross Property Owners Association, the Advisory Design Review or so many other opportunities that arise, we are blessed to have an abundance of extraordinary skill sets within our small community. In this regard I would like to thank Michael Battey for his three years of service on the Ross Financial Investment Advisory Committee (FIAC). When I joined the Council in 2012, I discovered that for many years Ross's Town Reserve funds were invested in higher risk investments inappropriate for our Town and contrary to State laws that mandated cer-

Continued on Page 2

Winter Holiday Event



Please join the Ross Auxiliary for the annual Ross Winter Sing event Sunday, December 6, 2015, on the Ross Common. This community event marks the start of the holiday season. We hope you can join your neighbors for this fun event. The schedule for the festivities



is as follows:

- 4:30 - 5:00 pm** - Branson Choir, Ross School Chorus, and St. John's Preschool Chorus
- 5:00 pm** - Tree Lighting (Mayor to light tree)
- 5:00 - 6:00 pm** - Santa Claus will arrive via Ross Valley Fire Truck



The lights on the tree will be on a timer, and set from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm from December 6th to January 2nd. ■



IN THIS ISSUE

2. Police Officers Association MOU
2. Mosquito Board Vacancy
3. Planning
3. Police
3. 6 Redwood Drive Clean-up
4. New MAGC Executive Director
4. Recreation
5. Calendar

Storm Preparation Update



The Town has been continuing to prepare for the upcoming wet season. In the past two months, drainage pipes have been repaired or replaced in multiple locations throughout the Town including Fernhill Avenue, Madrona Avenue, and Allen Avenue. Storm drain inlets have been repaired or replaced on Fernhill Avenue and Winding Way. The

Town is also making plans for additional repairs to pipes and inlets in the coming weeks.



Mayor's Corner - continued from page 1

tain fiduciary requirements in the investment of Municipal funds. Carla Small and I created the FIAC in my capacity as chair of the Finance Committee. Michael Battey along Mason Flemming and Jim Martling, worked closely with then Town Manager Rob Braulik in restructuring our investment management policies to comply with State law and the prudent investment policies we all expect of Town reserve funds management. We are all grateful to Michael Battey for his investment expertise and committee participation, along with Mason and Jim for their efforts. Because the Battey's are moving, we now have an opening on this committee; I would welcome hearing from potential applicants with a background in investment management to fill this opening. Please contact myself, khoertkorn@gmail.com or our Town Manager, Joe Chinn, jchinn@townofross.org for an application.

We are expecting "El Nino" to show up at any time! Please check our website, www.townofross.org for our Emergency Preparedness Guide which will give you information on how to prepare an emergency kit for your family. You will certainly at least need flashlights with fresh batteries! Also, make sure any dead tree branches have been addressed, drains cleared, etc. Winter will be here soon!

I will be in front of the Ross Post Office, December 9th, from 1:00-2:30 p.m., just before next month's Council meeting. I'm will be looking forward to hearing any of your concerns or questions, or simply having the opportunity to meet you.

Finally, Ross Auxiliary is once again hosting the annual Tree Lighting ceremony on Sunday, December 6th at 4:30 p.m. Please come and share the holiday spirit with your friends and neighbors. ■

Council Approves New Safety Contract



The Council approved the Ross Police Officers Association Memorandum of Understanding for the term July 2015 to June 30, 2019. The MOU between the Town and Police Officers Association expired on June 30, 2015. The provisions of the MOU stay in place until a new MOU is negotiated. After several months of negotiations the Town and the Police Officers Association have come to agreement on a new MOU. Key provisions in the new MOU include:

Date after effective	Salary % Increase	Employee CalPERS Contribution Rate	Employee Contribution to Healthcare per Month
Current 2015		6.0%	\$0
Jan. 1, 2016	3.5%	7.5%	\$50
July 1, 2016	3.5%	9.0%	\$75
July 1, 2017	3.5%	10.5%	\$90
July 1, 2018	3.5%	12.0%	\$105

The fiscal impact from the new MOU in the current fiscal year is an increase of approximately \$24,000 excluding health insurance which employees will start paying a portion of after January 1, 2016. The Police Department budget for the year total is \$1,473,000 of which \$1,291,000 is for salary and benefits. ■

Town Seeks Resident for Board Vacancy

The Town is seeking an interested resident to fill a board vacancy on the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District Board of Trustees. To serve on this committee, you must be a registered voter and reside in Ross. New appointees begin by serving a two-year term from January 2016 to December 2018.



The Board of Trustees meetings are held monthly at 7:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month at District Headquarters in Cotati. Each member is compensated \$100 per Board meeting for travel expenses (not to exceed \$100 per month).

If you would like to be considered for this appointment by the Town Council, please provide a brief statement with any relevant background you may have in serving on boards or commissions. Preference will be given to those who have experience, training, and education in fields that will assist in the governance of the District. Submit your response via email to Linda Lopez at llopez@townofross.org by December 1, 2015. The Council will review submissions at the December 10th Council meeting and select an appointment at that time.

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the November Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the [November 12th](#) meeting page. The minutes for this meeting will be available on this page after adoption by the Council at the December Council meeting.

Address: 32 Shady Lane
Applicant: John & Katherine Kilroy
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 9 Woodside Way
Applicant: Amalfi Woodside LLC
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-0 (Hoertkorn recused)

Address: 200 Hillside Avenue
Applicant: Chris & Sheri Ericksen
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-1-0 (Robbins opposed, Kuhl recused)



PUBLIC SAFETY

Don't leave valuables in your car while shopping during the holidays



Just a note of caution when shopping during the holidays. If you plan to shop in the City during the holidays, note that San Francisco Police have reported a dramatic increase in car break-ins. The San Francisco Chronicle reported a 47% increase in August.

Please don't leave valuables in your car in plain sight. Park in well lighted areas and use facilities that have security if possible.

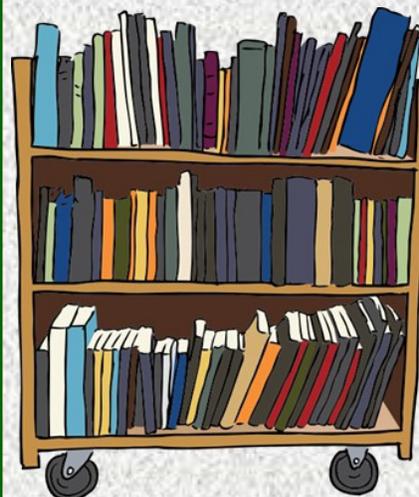
Have a happy and safe holiday.
Ross Police Department

6 Redwood House Clean-Up

The Town is contracting with American Technologies, Inc. (ATI) for the cleanup of the fire-damaged Town property at 6 Redwood Drive. Special procedures are necessary due to the presence of lead-based paint in a burned structure. The work will include lead abatement, HEPA vacuuming, removal and disposal of contaminated materials, and boarding up of the premises. Work is scheduled to begin in early November and is anticipated to take a maximum of four weeks. Once the work is completed, the Council will discuss the next step for the 6 Redwood Drive property, at a future Council meeting.

Ross School Annual Book Fair

The Ross School Friends of the Library will host its annual Book Fair.



DATE: Tuesday, December 1st thru Friday, December 4, 2015.

TIME: 8:00 - 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Ross School Gymnasium



MAGC Welcomes New Director

The Marin Art & Garden Center (MAGC) has hired Antonia Adezio as Executive Director. Ms. Adezio has a strong commitment to the sustainability of public gardens and the arts.



Antonia Adezio
Executive Director

She was the founding director and long-time president of the Garden Conservancy, a national organization based in New York that is dedicated to saving and sharing outstanding American gardens. From the Conservancy's West Coast Office in the Presidio, Antonia led the restoration of the historic Alcatraz Gardens as well as a distinguished series of educational programs throughout the Bay Area.

Under her leadership the Garden Conservancy received numerous awards for contributions to the arts and public gardens including the 2009 Organizational Excellence Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the 2012 Historic Preservation Award from the Garden Club of America.

"We are very pleased to welcome Antonia to the MAGC team," says Diane Doodha, President of the MAGC Board of Trustees. "Antonia's sensitivity to the historic qualities of the Center's site and her engagement with the larger arts and garden community will enable us to forge a new profile for our public programs as well as enhance our audience base and community impact. The Board looks forward to working with Antonia as we broaden our donor base and develop strategic plans for the future."

Town Hall Holiday Closures

As we approach the holidays, we want to remind everyone of Town Hall office closures. Administration, Building, Public Works, & Planning will be closed November 25-27th, and December 23rd through January 1, 2015. If you have business needs with these departments, please address them before or after the closure. Happy holidays!

RECREATION NEWS

One of our most popular fall programs is coed ballroom dancing for 6th and 7th grade students. Once again, the registration is at capacity with over 75 participants and is taught by the staff of Dance Arts Studios in San Rafael. The program is held weekly at the Marin Arts and Garden Center.

The fall youth soccer program concludes on Saturday, November 14. Final league games will be played on Ross Commons. This year, over 315 boys and girls participated on 38 teams.



Ross Recreation partnered with All West Lacrosse this fall to offer an introductory lacrosse program for pre-Kindergarten age children. Lacrosse is the fastest growing youth sport in America. The program offered lacrosse skill instruction in a safe and fun atmosphere. The partnership will continue, as the program was well received.

Preparations are underway for the winter season. The winter/spring brochure is currently being developed and will be available in early December. Online Registration will begin once the brochure is finalized.

Register at www.rossrecreation.org

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2015

Nov 11	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Veterans Day
Nov 12	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 17	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 18	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 25-27	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday

DECEMBER 2015

Dec 6	4:30	pm	Winter Holiday Tree Lighting, Ross Common (<i>see page 1 for details</i>)
Dec 8	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 10	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 15	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 23-Dec 31	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for the holidays

JANUARY 2016

Jan 1	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for New Year's Day
Jan 12	6:00	pm	Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 14	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 18	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 26	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

CONTACT US

Administration	415.453.1453 x105	Public Works	415.453.1453 x106
Building	415.453.1453 x106	Recreation	415.453.6020
Planning	415.453.1453 x121, 122	Ross Valley Fire	415.258.4686
Police	415.453.1453, Option 2	Town Manager	415.453.1453 x107

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

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