

THE MORNING AFTER

*Highlights from the
Ross Town Council Meeting
of January 10, 2008*

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Thanks, Thanks and More Thanks

Thanks again to Jim, Robert, Jake, Steve and Rick – our five town employees honored last night for their milestone anniversaries with the town (see story below). Thanks to the entire town staff for their hard work and great job in safely steering us through last week's major storm (also see story below). And thanks to all of you who took the time to email us with positive feedback on our handling of the storm and our efforts to keep you informed about what is happening in Ross. Our shared efforts and ability to communicate are vital to our success in all our endeavors in Ross.

Town Weathers Major Storm

The Town Council and public applauded town staff for their adept handling of last Friday's major storm. Public safety officials warned businesses and residents last Thursday afternoon of the approaching storms, and floodgates and sandbags sprung up in the downtown in preparation for the storm.

As the Corte Madera Creek level rose on Friday, staff alerted residents via email and telephone and by sounding the air horn just after 10 a.m. when the creek rose above 16 feet. It crested at 16.24 feet, somewhat comfortably under the 20.0-foot flood stage.

Extra public safety and public works staff were on duty to respond to localized flooding and downed trees and power lines. Bolinas Avenue was closed for one hour due to flooding. An Upper Road West fire ignited by a downed power line was quickly put out by the Fire Department.



Public Works Superintendent Robert Maccario clears a drain on Bolinas Ave in San Anselmo. (Photo: Marin IJ)

Wind gusts of up to 70 mph toppled trees and littered roadways with branches and debris. Public works crews continued clean up efforts long after the storms subsided.



Rick Addicks, Steve Nelson, Robert Maccario, Jake Peterson, and Jim Reis

Town Honors Employees

The Council recognized five employees for their years of dedicated work to the town. Receiving awards were: Police Sergeant Jim Reis for 30 years of service; Public Works Superintendent Robert Maccario, 15 years; Fire Department Captain Jake Peterson, 15 years; Fire Department Engineer Rick Addicks, 5 years; and Police Officer Steve Nelson, 5 years.

This is the second year the town has recognized employees reaching five-year milestone anniversaries with the town. This year's honorees received gift cards as a token of the town's appreciation. Sergeant Reis received a plaque commemorating his 30-year career with the town, and the others received certificates. Thank you Jim, Robert, Jake, Rick and Steve – we couldn't do it without you!



Mayor Scot Hunter's Report

The Town of Ross along with the ten other Marin municipalities and the County of Marin were successful in our application for a \$75,000 Climate Protection/Capacity-Building grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. The jurisdictions will use the funding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create sustainable communities. The partnership will enable our region to better share ideas, collaborate on joint projects when applicable, and coordinate policies and programs.

Lagunitas Road Bridge Design

Public Works Director Mel Jarjoura presented various design alternatives for replacement of the Lagunitas Road Bridge. The discussion centered on widths and placement of travel lanes, shoulders and walkways.



The Council indicated that it preferred a design that minimized the width of the bridge as much as possible and placed a single walkway on the exterior south side of the bridge to minimize the walkway's visual presence. Such a design would provide safe passage for pedestrians and traffic calming while allowing the scale of the bridge to more closely replicate the existing scale. The town's engineering consultant, David Anderson, explained that federal funding requirements constrain some aspects of the bridge design, most notably the width of travel lanes and shoulders.

The Council asked for the project architect to sketch the preferred design and present it at the February meeting. Construction is scheduled for late 2009.

Trash Collection Rates to Increase 3.46%



The Town Council unanimously voted to grant Marin Sanitary Service a rate increase of 3.46% effective January 1, 2008. Rates will increase \$.74 per month for a 32-gallon can and \$1.48 per month for a 64-gallon can in the flat terrain areas.

About one quarter of the rate hike is attributed to higher costs to process yard waste for compost.

Marin Sanitary Service is introducing a new 20-gallon can for residential customers who generate less waste. The 20-gallon can will be priced at 15% below the 32-gallon can rate.

Interested residents may call Marin Sanitary Service at 456-2601.

Council Discusses New Parking Barrier

The Council discussed erecting a parking barrier along the dirt shoulder on the south side of Laurel Grove near its intersection with Canyon Road. Several Laurel Grove neighbors advised the Council of their years of enduring contractors leaving tractor-trailers and heavy equipment overnight and dumping garbage at the Laurel Grove pullout. Ticketing has had little success in abating the illegal parking because contractors find it less expensive to pay the \$30 parking fine than to store the heavy equipment elsewhere. The Council directed staff to study parking barrier alternatives, including the

use of boulders or street trees, that would still allow the use of the area for overflow automobile parking.

Municipal Service Tax to Appear on June 3 Ballot

The Town Council voted to again place the town's municipal service tax on the June 3, 2008 ballot. The municipal service tax has been in place in Ross since 1984, but by state law it must be renewed by town voters every four years. The Council could assess each developed parcel up to \$1,000 a year, the same as the present level, to maintain town services such as police and fire protection and street and drainage maintenance. The Council establishes the municipal service tax annually at a public budget meeting, with the current level set at \$775.



Call for Advisory Design Review Group Members

The Council established an Advisory Design Review process at its December 2007 meeting and is seeking residents interested in serving on the five-member Advisory Design Review Group. Residents with professional design background or an interest in design are encouraged to apply. The Council will make appointments at its February meeting. Letter of interest, including background and qualifications, should be submitted to Town Manager Gary Broad by February 6th.



Planning Application Scoreboard

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications considered at last night's Council meeting. For more information on each planning application, you can view staff reports at <http://www.townofross.org/town-council/current-meeting-reports/>. The minutes of this meeting will be available on the Town website at www.townofross.org after approval at the February Council meeting.

Address	Applicant	Approved	Modified Approval	Denied	Continued
81 Sir Francis Drake	Harold and Carol Sherley				
11 Olive Avenue	Jonathan and Donna Goldman				
11 Locust Avenue	George and Carol Yandell				
1 Woodside Way	Joe and Monica Kwait				

Upcoming Town Council Meeting

The next Town Council meeting will be Thursday, February 14, at 6:30 pm. Agendas are posted in advance of the meeting on the town's website at www.townofross.org.

The Morning After is published monthly by The Town of Ross and is written by Project Planner Christine O'Rourke and edited by Town Manager Gary Broad. The newsletter is not an official record of the meeting's proceedings. No portion of this newsletter may be copied, reproduced or reprinted without advance written permission from the Town of Ross. If you'd like to receive The Morning After and other town information via email, contact Linda Lopez at llopez@townofross.org.