

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 | Issue 3 | March 2014

### Mayor's Corner



Beach Kuhl

The Town is getting ready to start construction in June on the Sir Francis Drake Boulevard/Lagunitas Road Intersection project to improve automobile, pedestrian and bicycle safety. The Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) is providing funding. Safety improvements to the SFD/Lagunitas intersection are expected to reduce automobile collisions, provide safer crosswalks for pedestrians, and improve overall community safety. The project limits are along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard from approximately 300' north of Laurel Grove Avenue to 300' south of Lagunitas Road and approximately 80' measured from the Sir Francis Drake Boulevard along Lagunitas Road and Laurel Grove Avenue. The project is expected to start in late June.

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### HIGHLIGHTS

2. Public Safety
2. Chief of Protocol Needed
3. Planning
3. Flood Insurance Rate Maps
4. Integrated Pest Mgmt Policy
4. Recreation Manager Position
5. Calendar

### Two Candidates Fill Two Council Seats



The filing period for the two Council seats open in the June 3, 2014 election closed on March 12th. Council Member (incumbent) Carla Small and former Ross School Board member Elizabeth Robbins were the two individuals who filed papers. To formalize this process, the Council will hold a special Council meeting next Thursday, March 20th to consider making the appointments of Carla Small and Elizabeth Robbins, and canceling the election in June.

Elizabeth Robbins will fill outgoing Council Member Rupert Russell's seat, which expires in June. Carla Small's first term began in 2010; this will be her second term. Both candidates will be sworn into office at the July Council meeting. Congratulations to both! ■

### Council Considers Amending Signage

The Council considered a draft ordinance for temporary signs placed by local organizations looking to promote special events. Under the current ordinance, temporary signs are not permitted, including those routinely posted for the farmers markets, Ross Recreation, and house and garden tours. The proposed ordinance would allow temporary signs for Town-sponsored events and for Ross nonprofits. The regulations would also permit temporary A-frame signs for some special events at the Marin Art & Garden Center. The Council agreed the signs should not be allowed in public right-of-ways. The full text of the proposed ordinance is available at the Town website [Staff Reports](#) page. The Council will hold a hearing on the regulations in April. If you would like to comment on the proposed regulations, please email the Planning Department at [esemonian@townofross.org](mailto:esemonian@townofross.org). ■





**Recreation services**

While the management structure of Ross recreation programs is being restructured, programs of the same type as in past years are ongoing and planned. Ross Recreation continues to provide recreation services for Ross residents and others who seek to use the programs and services and participate in the sports activities offered by Ross Recreation. Sue Talmage is the Interim Director of Ross Recreation and is running the day to day operations. Sue and the Ross Rec team are working getting out the normal brochure outlining programs and services to residents and those who want to participate from outside Ross. Meanwhile, the Town recruitment for a new Ross Recreation Manager is underway. For those who may be interested in applying for this position, see page 4 of this newsletter for details. The Town offers its gratitude and appreciation to the Ross Recreation Committee, Sue Talmage and the entire Ross Recreation staff team for their work and dedication to provide recreation services to the community.

**FY2015 Budget Workshop**

The Council will hold a FY15 budget workshop on April 29<sup>th</sup>. The workshop is planned for 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and will be held at the Marin Art & Garden Center. ■

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

The first step to prevent identity theft is awareness of how and when you use your personal information. By keeping close tabs on your personal information, you can reduce your chances of becoming an identity theft victim.

- Memorize your Social Security number and passwords
- Don't record your password on papers you carry with you
- Don't use your date of birth as your password
- Shred pre-approved credit applications and other financial documents before discarding them
- Order credit reports every year from each of the major credit reporting agencies and thoroughly review



them for accuracy

- Never give personal or financial information over the phone or Internet unless you initiated the contact
- Don't carry your Social Security card or birth certificate with you
- Report lost or stolen credit cards immediately
- Check your monthly credit card and bank statements for unusual activity
- Use a firewall program on your computer, especially if you leave your computer connected to the Internet 24 hours a day
- Do not download files sent to you by strangers or click on hyperlinks from people

**CHIEF OF PROTOCOL NEEDED**

The Town is still seeking an interested Ross resident (or two) for its Chief of Protocol position. This volunteer position is appointed by the Town Council and typically serves a two-year term. Its main directive is to oversee the Town's 4th of July celebration and the annual Town Dinner. It requires a take-charge person who enjoys working with people, and planning and organizing large-scale community events. If this sounds like something you would enjoy doing, we would love to hear from you. We realize this position can be a lot for one person to handle, so another option could be



two people sharing the position as Co-Chiefs. The workload could then be shared evenly without the full burden on one person. The Town is open to either option.

Unlike other cities and towns that have ample staff they can designate to oversee their events, the Town of Ross does not. Therefore, a Chief of Protocol is necessary in order for these events that everyone looks forward to each year, to continue. We hope someone from the community will step forward so they can. Please contact Linda Lopez at 453-1453 x105, if you are interested in the position, or if you have any questions. ■

## PLANNING



Elise Semonian

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the March Council meeting. For more information on each planning application, click [here](#). The minutes for this meeting will be available at [www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org) after adoption at the April 2014 Council meeting. An audio file of this meeting will be posted on the [website](#) the day after the meeting.

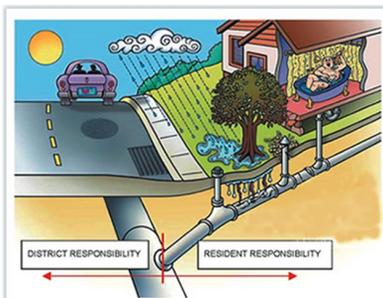
**Address: 25 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard**  
**Applicant: POLA 25 LLC**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 179 Lagunitas Road/Tree Violation**  
**Applicant: Gardenia L.P.**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Hoertkorn recused)**

**Address: 4 Allen Avenue**  
**Applicant: Mark Dumolien & Carol Brown**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 54 Wellington Avenue**  
**Applicant: Michael & Justyna Lloyd**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

### Ross Valley Sanitary District Lateral Replacement Grant Program



Nearly 50% of all sewer spills are caused by leaking privately owned lateral pipes located within private and public property. Private laterals are the responsibility of the property owner, from the building to and including the connection at the District main line. The Ross Valley Sanitary District (RSVD) Lateral Replacement Grant Program was designed to encourage property owners to repair or replace their pipe and help to protect the beautiful Ross Valley. The District may fund either \$2,500, or half of the total cost of the lowest bid to replace your lateral pipe, whichever is less. Contact RSVD with inquiries at (415) 259-2949, or by email to [info@rvsd.org](mailto:info@rvsd.org). See [rvsd.org](http://rvsd.org) for more information.



## New Flood Insurance Rate Maps Effective March 17th

New FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) take effect on March 17, 2014. The mapped boundaries of the Flood Hazard Area are changing and reducing from 107 acres to 86.5 acres. The number of primary buildings in the SFHA will drop from 225 to 205. The new maps identify the floodway and development in this area will be regulated so that flood depths are not increased. Visit the Flood Information area of the town website, which has recently been updated with links to the new FIRMs and a wealth of other information about flooding, flood insurance, building in the floodplain, and ideas for protecting your property from flood damage.



For individual assistance regarding the new maps, flood insurance data, elevation certificates, or other flood questions, contact the Planning Department at (415) 453-1453 ext. 121. Town staff is available to meet with you and visit your site to review your flood problems and make recommendations. There may be sources of financial assistance available to help you mitigate flood losses to your property that we can share with you.

Most structures in the Ross floodplain were built before the town adopted its first FIRM ("pre-FIRM"). The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 reauthorized the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and outlined reforms to make the program more sustainable, including phasing in new flood insurance rates for some sites. More information regarding flood insurance changes can be found at FEMA's website: <http://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance-reform-act-2012>. ■

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## Did you know?

- Marin County currently diverts 75% of all waste generated from the landfill. The County of Marin has a goal to divert 94% of waste from going to the landfill by 2025 and **everything** you recycle and compost helps make this goal a reality.
- Your garbage cart does **not** get sorted – *all* items placed in it go to the landfill. Only items placed in your **recycling** and **green waste** carts are sorted by Marin Sanitary Service (MSS) to remove contaminants (like plastic bags) to save resources.
- 37% of a typical Marin County resident's waste stream is food and yard waste. These can now go in your green cart every week! Need more green carts? Please call our office to rent up to 5 additional 64-gallon MSS tipper carts.



MSS offers the following containers to help meet your waste needs. Garbage carts come in 20, 32, 64 and 96 gallon sizes, and soon they will have two sizes of green carts (35 and 64 gallon) for yard waste/ food waste. Call MSS Customer Service to find out more about our cart options (415) 456-2601.



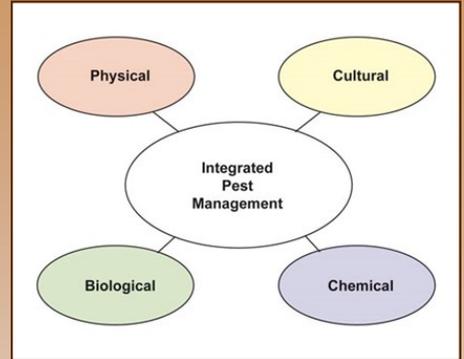
## New Law Mandates Replacing Old Plumbing Fixtures

There is a new State law (SB 407), that mandates replacement of old plumbing fixtures with water conserving toilets, urinals, showerhead and faucets. The requirements apply to structures built before 1994. Between now and 2017, the law's requirements are triggered when a property is undergoing alterations, additions or improvements.

By January 1, 2017, all single-family residences built before 1994, must have water-conserving plumbing fixtures regardless of whether the property undergoes alterations or improvements. The new law can be found at the [California Civil Code website](#).

## Ross Integrated Pest Management Policy Approved

The Town Council adopted a Resolution approving a Town Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy as part of the State Water Resources Control Board's Phase II Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System General Permit (Phase II Permit). The new permit went into effect July 1, 2013 and remains in effect through June 30, 2018.



The Town was required to adopt a Pesticide-Related Toxicity Control Program to prevent the impairment of urban streams by pesticide-related toxicity, and to adopt an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy no later than August 5, 2014. The IPM Policy serves as the basis of the required Pesticide-Related Toxicity Program. Implementation actions of the program include: a) train all municipal employees who use or apply pesticides in the IPM practices and policy; b) require contractors to implement the Town IPM Policy for work they do for the Town; c) keep Marin County Agricultural Commissioners informed of water quality issues related to pesticides; and d) keep records on pesticide use.

## JOB OPPORTUNITY Ross Recreation Manager

If you are interested in applying for this position, submit a resume, cover letter, salary history and professional references via email to [apply@ralphandersen.com](mailto:apply@ralphandersen.com) by the closing date of **April 4, 2014**. Confidential inquiries welcomed to Heather Renschler at (916) 630-4900. A detailed recruitment brochure is available on the Town's website by clicking [here](#).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Mailing Address:</b>	<b>Street Address:</b>
P.O. Box 320	31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd
Ross, CA 94957	Ross, CA 94957
<b>Administration</b>	415.453.1453 x105
<b>Building</b>	415.453.1453 x106
<b>Planning</b>	415.453.1453 x121
<b>Police</b>	415.453.1453, option 2
<b>Public Works</b>	415.453.1453 x106
<b>Ross Valley Fire</b>	415.258.4686
<b>Town Manager</b>	415.453.1453 x107



## ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH 2014

Mar 11	1:30 pm	Finance Committee Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 12	4:00 pm	Filing Deadline to run for Town Council
Mar 13	6:00 pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 20	8:00 am	Special Council Meeting, Town Hall
Mar 25	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

### APRIL 2014

Apr 10	6:00 pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
Apr 22	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Apr 29	9:00-1:00 pm	Special Council Meeting - Budget Workshop, MAGC Livermore Rm

### MAY 2014

May 8	6:00 pm	Regular Council Meeting, Town Hall
May 10	9:00-3:00 pm	SAVE THE DATE! Ross Garden Tour, Ross Common Tickets available at <a href="http://rossgardentour.org">rossgardentour.org</a>
May 22	6:00 pm	Special Council Meeting - Budget Public Hearing, Town Hall
May 26	-- --	Town Hall offices closed for Memorial Day
May 27	7:00 pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

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