

THE ROSS REVIEW

Volume 1 | Issue 6 | November 2025

Mayor's Report



Mayor Julie McMillan

I want to update residents about recent developments in Town facilities issues and let everyone know about related upcoming agenda items, which will be heard during our January 8 regular Council meeting.

On October 2, Friends of the Ross Firehouse ("FORF") submitted signatures to support its Ballot Initiative, triggering a 30-day period for the Town to verify the signatures.

- The fiscal impacts (short-term and long-term);
- Land use consistency with the Town's General Plan, Housing Element, and Civic Center Facilities Master Plan; and
- Service delivery and operational feasibility. [\[link to Resolution 2542\]](#)

On October 8, the Town's attorney wrote to FORF's attorney identifying grounds that call into question whether the Ballot Initiative is beyond the voters' power of initiative, and that there may be bases for:

- A potential determination that the Ballot Initiative does not belong on a ballot, or
- A potential determination that the Ballot Initiative is unenforceable and invalid, if ultimately the signatures were verified and the Ballot Initiative passed. [\[link to Oct 8 letter\]](#)

On October 14, the Town and FORF

- Agreed to toll the 30-day signature verification period until February 3, 2026; and
- With the goal of enhancing public participation and informed decision making, agreed to hold a meeting to hear presentations about the Town's Elections Code Report and FORF's proposals related to its Initiative, e.g., potential rehabilitation of the Town's fire station and construction of a new Town civic center, including capital, maintenance and/or operational costs, with or without a fire station. [\[link to Oct 14 Stipulation\]](#)

The Town will circulate the Town's Elections Code Report and FORF's materials before the January 8 meeting.

Ross School was recently ranked in the *top 10 public elementary and middle schools in all of California* -- out of more than 7,000 schools! Ross School was the *only* elementary school in northern California on the list (there was only one other middle school in northern California on the list). Ross School earned an overall grade of A+, reflecting excellence in academics, resources, extracurriculars and more. Congratulations to dedicated Ross School Superintendent David Rice, Principals, teachers, staff, Trustees, the PTO, parents and students. This exceptional achievement is also due in part to our community's continued generous support of Ross School's facilities bond and parcel tax, which residents overwhelmingly renewed in 2022. We can all take pride in this outstanding accomplishment.

Halloween

Finally, I sincerely wish you and your families a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving!



November 13, 2025 Council Meeting Highlights

Diane Doodha presents AARP Plaque for Age Friendly Ross

The Town of Ross celebrated a special milestone, the completion of the Town of Ross' AARP Age-Friendly Cycle, marked by the presentation of a commemorative plaque.

Ross earned the AARP age-friendly designation in 2018 and was formalized in 2019 by an AARP

at the October 2019 Town Council meeting. What does it mean to be an age-friendly community?

As an age-friendly community, we are part of a remarkable global movement, the Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Program, which was launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2007. The WHO recognized that aging well depends not just on health care, but on the environments in which we live, work, and connect with others. To read more, please click [here](#).



Understanding Flood Risk in Ross

The Town's Floodplain Administrator gave a presentation to the Town Council on November 13, 2025 about understanding and identifying flood risk in Ross. The presentation focused on how a destructive flood would typically travel through Ross, and gave advice about what residents can do to prepare against financial loss. A pdf of the PowerPoint presentation can be found here: [Presentation](#)

As a public service, the Town of Ross Floodplain Administrator can provide you with the following information upon request. There is no charge for this service except there may be a fee associated with providing additional flood insurance data, depending on the extent of the inquiry

- Whether a property is in or out of the Flood Hazard Area (FHA) as shown on the current Town Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The Town retains information on any revisions made to the flood maps.
- Additional flood insurance data for a site, such as the FIRM zone and the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) and Floodways.
- Other flood problems not shown on the FIRM, such as local drainage problems and the dam failure inundation zone.
- Historical flood information including anticipated flood depths.
- Copies of any Elevation Certificates that we maintain.
- Guideline creek setbacks and areas that should be protected because of their natural floodplain functions.

Ross Takes Steps to Ensure Tobacco Ban

The Ross Town Council on November 13 voted 4-0-1 (Salter to bring forward for adoption Ordinance 735, which would ban the sale of all tobacco products in the Town of Ross.



This item was presented to the Council by Branson School's Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) at the September meeting. Ross already had Ordinance 699 in place which regulated the sale of tobacco products. YAC asked the Council to consider a ban on all tobacco products in their [presentation](#) and the Council agreed, moving the Ordinance to adoption at the December 11 Council meeting.

PLANNING RESULTS

There were no planning items on the agenda for the month of November.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 2025

November 18 6:00pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
November 21 4:00pm Town Council Special Closed Session and Open Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
November 27 & 28 Thanksgiving Holiday - Town offices closed

December 2025

December 11 6:00pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
December 16 6:00pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
December 24-31 Winter Holiday - Town offices closed

January 2026

January 1 New Years Day - Town Offices closed
January 8 6:00pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
December 16 6:00pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

HALLOWEEN IN ROSS!

Halloween got off to a great start with the Ross School parade led by Chief Pata on his trusted steed Rexy!!!!

Creativity and spirit paved the way through Shady Lane and other residences throughout Town who festively decorated their



Heart of Ross: Downtown Business Spotlight

Featuring What Makes Ross Unique

6 Oz Wine Bar

Located in the heart of Ross, **6oz Wine Bar** is a cozy neighborhood spot designed for connecting over a glass of great wine. A curated selection of

California and international wines are featured, by the glass, along with their signature can of nuts — the perfect pairing for relaxed conversation. It's an ideal place to enjoy a pre- or post-dinner drink when visiting Ross, or simply to unwind with friends. All of their Wine and Beer are also available for purchase by the bottle to bring to your next gathering or to enjoy at home.

Open Tuesdays at 5 PM and Wednesday through Saturday at 4 PM
3 Ross Common, Ross, CA.



LAST CHANGE *Fall 2 classes*

PRE-SEASON

WINTER BASKETBALL SKILLS CLINICS

Join Coach Jean Marc Schafer and Coach C for our preseason hoops clinic to get you ready for our Winter basketball league! Coaches will cover everything from fundamentals, skill development, ball handling, shooting, passing and scrimmages. Learn some new skills while also having fun!

Nov. 10 - Dec. 15

K - 1st: 2:50-3:50pm

2nd-4th 4:00-5:00pm

Tuesdays at Bacich

Nov 18 - Dec. 16

K - 1st: 2:50-3:50pm

K - 1st: 4:00-5:00pm

Wednesdays at Ross

Nov. 12 - Dec. 17

2nd-4th: 2:45-3:30pm



ROSS RECREATION

New & returning favorites!
Winter programs
January 5th - March 20th

Youth Classes:

- Youth Basketball League
- Kids Club
- HRT High Performance Tennis
- Chess Club
- Theatre Performances w/ 23 Elephants Theatre Company
- Coding w/ CodeAdvantage
- ArKIDtecture
- Electronic Music Production
- Gardening
- French
- Art
- Indoor Soccer

Adult Classes:

- Tennis
- Pickleball
- Bridge
- Tai Chi
- Mah Jongg

Upcoming:

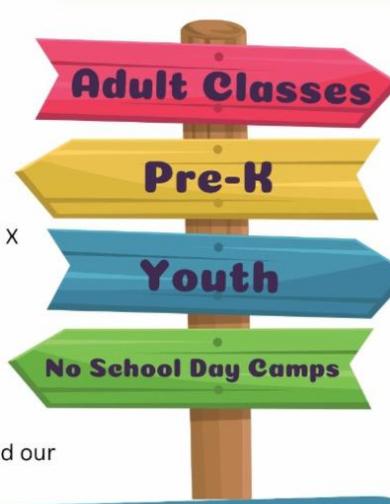
- Blind Wine Tasting w/ CAM X Wines (Oct. 28th)

Tot & Pre-K Classes:

- Wilderness Cubs w/ RCNS
- Tot Saturday Soccer

Check out our website for complete list of programs!





Contact:
(415) 453-6020 \ www.rossrecreation.org \ rossrec@townofrossca.gov

**AND
MORE!**

Be on the lookout as we expand our tot class offerings!

Please Help Protect the Ross Common



A friendly reminder for all dog owners:

The Ross Common is one of our town's most beloved shared spaces — a place for residents of all ages (and their dogs!) to enjoy. To help keep it beautiful and safe for everyone, please remember: dogs must remain on leash when on the Common's fields. Off-leash play is allowed only in the Grove area.

We also ask that dog owners never allow digging on the fields or landscaped areas, as it damages the turf and creates hazards for others. Pick up after your dogs and dispose of waste bags in the trash to keep the Common clean and pleasant for all.

Thank you for doing your part to care for this special community space!



ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

TOY DRIVE



DONATE BY DECEMBER 15TH

Each year, many children from the Ross Valley neighborhoods need our help to make their Christmas and Holidays bright and merry. If you would like to help a local child, please bring unwrapped toys to any of the Ross Valley Fire Department Stations.

For more info, contact:
RVFD Engineer Adam Van Dyke
avandyke@rossvalleyfire.org

HOLIDAYS ARE FAST APPROACHING HELPFUL HINTS FROM THE ROSS POST OFFICE



Staff at Ross Post Office know how important it is to get your special parcels delivered on time and in one piece! They offer the following helpful ideas:

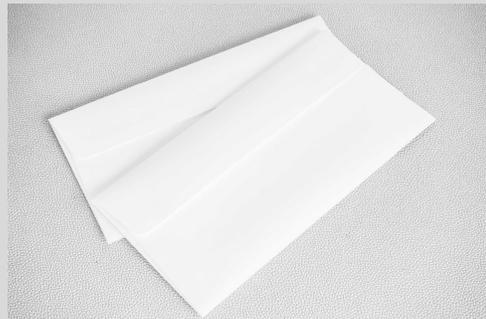
- >Tis the season when packages are in over abundance, so mail your packages and holiday cards **early**.
- >Do not put gift cards or candy in your mailing card. If a card has ridges or is not bendable, it is considered a parcel.
- >Always put your return address on all of your cards and bills. The return address should be on the top left corner.

> format: physical street
address, #box number (123 Main #9999) **DO NOT** use this format for mailing envelopes or magazines.

- > Always have your wedding or other invitation cards weighed for accurate postage.
- > Do not use **RED** ink to address any cards or parcels for mailing. The computer cannot distinguish the address for accuracy.
- > Going Away? Put a vacation hold on your box. This will keep your mailbox from overflowing and keep your parcels from being returned. Please note, that parcels are held for only 15 days at all postal stations.
- > If you have a large amount of outgoing letters or small parcels, please do not drop them in the blue or wall mailbox. It clogs up the boxes and other customers cannot deposit their outgoing mail. Just bring them to the counter.
- > If you have holiday or birthday cards that are square, don't forget extra postage is required.



EXTRA POSTAGE ENVELOPE



REGULAR POSTAGE ENVELOPE

Don't forget, last-minute gift cards or greeting cards are available at the Post Office and there is no sales tax on these items.



Marin
Art and
Garden
Center

80
YEARS



Winter Wonderland at Marin Art and Garden Center

**Celebrate the Season with Art, Music,
Nature and Hands-on Workshops
December 5-7 and 12-14, 2025**

**Winterfest with the Ross Auxiliary on
December 6th**

(ROSS, CALIF.) --- Enjoy two festive holiday weekends as the Marin Art and Garden Center transforms into a Winter Wonderland – a joyful celebration of the season filled with holiday-inspired art, garden workshops, music and community celebrations for all ages. Create, shop, relax or simply soak in the festivities. Winter Wonderland at Marin Art and Garden Center offers meaningful and magical events that highlight the spirit of the season and the beauty of the 11-acre gardens. Please visit

maringarden.org/winterwonderland for more



**The Ultimate Estate Sale – Calling all
Treasure Hunters and Safe Crackers
December 5, 6 and 7 from 11 am to 5
pm, The Cottage**

Marin Art and Garden Center is opening the vault for a rare opportunity to purchase



**Winterfest with the Ross Auxiliary
December 6 from 2:30 to 5:30 pm**

The Ross Auxiliary presents an annual family-favorite, Winterfest on December 6th, featuring a Kiddie Choo Choo Train, festive food and beverages, an Igloo Dance Party, bubbles, caroling, hot cocoa at the Watering Can and of course, Santa Claus! Pixie Park will also host their Annual Holiday Bake Sale.

Holiday Workshops and Garden Classes December 5-7 and 12-14

Please visit maringarden.org/winterwonderland for more details and to register

- December 7th – Garden to Cup: Growing and Making Herbal Teas
 - December 7th – Botanical Printing Holiday Cards
 - December 7th & 13th – Cookie Decorating with Babaloo Bakes
 - December 14th – Botanical Scarf Dying
 - December 14th – Sound Bath
 - Gingerbread House Decorating – coming soon! Please visit the [Winter Wonderland](#) page for details
- Live Music** performances from local schools.

Children's Chanukah with Latkes and Light + The Iceland Series Exhibit December 20 from 4 to 5 pm

Celebrate Chanukah with The Iceland Series at The Bottle House by light artist Melissa Auerbach Schaeffer. Enjoy homemade latkes, cheddar sage, cranberry sauce, challah, chocolate gelt, Chanukah cookies and hot cocoa.

CalFresh (SNAP) Emergency Resources

Approximately 10,000 Marin households – approximately 15,500 people – rely on CalFresh to meet their basic nutritional needs. Marin Health and Human Services (HHS) continues to actively collaborate with community-based organizations to address food insecurity and coordinate local food resources.



How to Help

Community members and organizations wishing to help can:

- Donate to the Marin Community Foundation's "Food on Every Table" fund, which supports trusted local food security efforts.
- Support local food banks and pantries through donations or volunteer time.
- Share accurate information from hhs.marincounty.gov to help others stay informed.



MARIN MASTER GARDENERS

November: Plant Placement and Spacing in a Fire Smart Landscape

November is the time to turn off irrigation systems for the winter rainy season and reflect on the past growing season. Consider whether your plants received proper watering and plan any needed updates to your irrigation system or consider replacements with more drought-tolerant plants. Drought stressed and dry [landscape plants](#) easily ignite and create a ready path for fire spread. The stressed plants are also more vulnerable to pests and diseases.

When replanting, [choose plants](#) that match your watering limitations and maintenance schedule, and be mindful of fire-smart spacing. Select low-maintenance plants so it's easier to keep up with [pruning](#) needs and cleanup of leaf and plant debris (fuel for wildfire).

[Plant spacing](#) plays a key role in creating a fire-smart garden. Group plants in islands separated by non-combustible materials such as pebbles, decomposed granite, or flagstone pathways to help slow or stop fire spread. Maintain vertical separation between shrubs and trees—flames can reach three times a plant's height. For fire-safe clearance, limb trees 6–10 feet above the ground or about one-third of their height, and avoid planting tall shrubs beneath them.

Enhance both aesthetics and safety by using seating areas, boulders, or dry creek beds as natural fire breaks and visual focal points. Replace continuous hedges, which create unbroken fuel for fire, with staggered plantings or by strategically placing shrubs in front of windows or seating areas (outside of zone zero) to maintain privacy. [Berms](#) can also add visual interest, privacy, and soil benefits.

On [slopes](#), increase spacing between trees and shrubs as the slope steepens to reduce fire spread and improve plant health.

By thoughtfully selecting and spacing plants, you can create a landscape that is not only more resilient to wildfire but also beautiful, [earth-friendly](#), and easier to maintain year-round.

For More Information on Fire-Smart Landscaping, visit
<https://ucanr.edu/site/uc-marin-master-gardeners/fire-smart-landscaping>

Central Marin CRT Health Fair

November 19 from 3-6pm at the San Anselmo Children's Center will feature flu and COVID vaccines, vision screening, mental health and nutrition resources, overdose prevention, a raffle, and more! Please make time to stop in and share in this community event that promotes health for all residents. See more detail below!



The poster features a light blue background with a large teal graphic of a stylized 'V' and a heart with a white ECG line. Logos for Marin Health & Human Services, Fairfax-San Anselmo Children's Center, Central Marin Community Resiliency Team, and BluePath Health are displayed. The event details are highlighted in an orange box.

MARIN HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Health, Well-being & Safety

FAIRFAX-SAN ANSELMO CHILDREN'S CENTER

CENTRAL MARIN COMMUNITY RESILIENCY TEAM

BluePath HEALTH

Central Marin Community Health Fair

The Fairfax San Anselmo Children's Center welcomes the health and wellness event for the Central Marin Community.

RESCHEDULED! NOVEMBER 19 • 3 - 6PM.
FAIRFAX-SAN ANSELMO CHILDREN'S CENTER
AT DEERPARK SCHOOL
199 PORTEOUS AVE • FAIRFAX

VISION EXAMS • NUTRITION • ORAL HEALTH
FLU AND COVID VACCINES • FREE FOOD
RAFFLE • AND MORE!

ZERØWASTEMARIN

Every year, an estimated 300 million pounds of food is thrown out on Thanksgiving. This Thanksgiving, let's give special thanks to the planet by hosting a zero waste Thanksgiving! By planning the feast in advance, using reusable containers for leftovers, using sustainable decorations, and composting food scraps we can help turn this holiday into an Eco-friendly celebration!



Tips for a Zero Waste Thanksgiving! →

ZERØWASTEMARIN



Reduce Food Waste

Plan complimentary recipes that will use up all of your ingredients: e.g. fresh herbs used in the stuffing can also be used in the mashed potatoes!

ZERØWASTEMARIN



Plan for Leftovers

Enjoy a turkey sandwich for lunch the day after Thanksgiving, or prompt guests to bring over food containers to take home leftovers after Thanksgiving dinner!

ZERØWASTEMARIN



Skip Disposables!

Serve your meal with reusable forks, plates, and napkins to cut down on waste! For table decor, prioritize natural or reusable decorations.

ZERØWASTEMARIN



Give New Life to Food Scraps

Set up a compost pail in your kitchen to collect food scraps from cooking, and direct guests to dispose of any plate scraps there too! You can also hang on to veggie trimmings to make homemade broth!

ZERØWASTEMARIN



Swap your old car for a cleaner ride with #CleanCarsForAll 🚗⚡

 Bay Area Air District

Cleaner cars, cleaner air! The Bay Area Air District's #CleanCarsforAll program is now accepting applications. Eligible Bay Area residents can receive up to \$12,000 to replace their older, polluting vehicle with a new or used EV. Apply today: baaqmd.gov/cleancarsforall

CONTACT US

Administration Office 415-453-1453 x105
- cmartel@townofrossca.gov
Building Department 415-453-1453 x106
- breher@townofrossca.gov
Bldg Inspection Hotline 415-453-1453 x170
- breher@townofrossca.gov
Planning/Bldg Director 415-453-1453 x121
- rfeliciano@townofrossca.gov
Planner 415-453-1453 x116
- alopez-vega@townofrossca.gov

Police Department 415-453-1453, Opt. 2
- rpata@townofrossca.gov
Public Works Director 415-453-1453 x115
- rsimonitch@townofrossca.gov
Recreation Department 415-453-6020
- rossrec@rossrecreationca.gov
- mborthwick@rossrecreationca.gov
Town Manager 415-453-1453 x107
- cjohnson@townofrossca.gov
Ross Valley Fire Dept 415-258-4686

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