

# THE ROSS REVIEW

415.453.1453 | 31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd | Ross | CA | 94957

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## Mayor's Report



*Mayor Julie McMillan*

It's almost summer and there's a warm feeling in the air and lovely light in the sky. School is out, graduations are over, college kids are back, and vacations are on the horizon. I hope you are savoring this special season.

Recently we have heard that some residents continue to be concerned about the July 1 closure of the Ross Fire Station (based on the Council's unanimous decision more than four years ago). We are currently working on another communications piece to reiterate these nuanced issues and further explain how our community will remain safe with continuing excellent emergency services from the Ross Valley Fire Department, the Ross Valley Paramedics (staying in Ross), the Ross Police and other county providers. In the meantime, more information is available on the Town's website, including links to the presentations and power points from Ross Valley Fire Chief Dan Mahoney, Ross Valley Paramedic Executive Officer and Marin County Fire Chief Jason Weber, and Marin Wildfire Executive Officer Mark Brown: [townofrossca.gov](https://townofrossca.gov)

Last month, Cal Fire and Marin Wildfire commemorated Wildfire Preparedness Week at the Ridgewood Firewise neighborhood in San Rafael and included Assemblymember Damon Connolly. We toured the yards of two homes that had completed the necessary work in Zone 0, the first 5' from houses and structures most important to protect homes from igniting by flying embers during a wildfire. We also visited Marin Wildfire's San Rafael San Anselmo Fuel Reduction Zone project, sited in a strategically important location in and surrounding the Mt. Tamalpais Cemetery. To reduce wildfire risk and intensity, the project is thinning nonnative invasive eucalyptus trees and doing restoration with native species.

Also in May, along with many other Marin mayors and councilmembers, I attended the “Time to Lead on Climate” event in Mill Valley. Congressman Jared Huffman, Marin County Board of Supervisors President Mary Sacket and others spoke about the importance of continuing local efforts to address climate change and resiliency.

Last week the Age Friendly breakfast was a big success. (And I learned firsthand that Crown & Crumpet makes the best coffee cake in Marin!) Director Ranjiv Khush shared information about Marin Water, including the many steps it is taking to ensure adequate water is available, even during periods of drought.

Earlier today, Councilmember Robbins and I enjoyed chatting with residents, starting our new tradition of a Councilmember at the Post Office from 11 am – 1 pm on the days of our Council meetings. Please stop by to see us on July 10.

In the inaugural Ross Review newsletter you'll find an column entitled *Heart of Ross: Downtown Business Spotlights*. Each month we will showcase a downtown Ross business. We will be featuring *Maison Marin*, 20 Ross Common, a gorgeous store offering unique treasures for your home and garden. (If you would like your business to be included in an upcoming Ross Review, please contact me: [jmcmillan@townofrossca.gov](mailto:jmcmillan@townofrossca.gov))

Happy Summer and see you at the Fourth of July Parade, which now begins at 10 am!

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## Chat with the Council every month on the day of the Council Meeting from 11am-1pm.

(Pictured: Mayor Pro Tempore Elizabeth Robbins and Mayor Julie McMillan)





## Town of Ross 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION!

PARADE BEGINS AT 10:00AM  
CELEBRATION ON ROSS COMMON: 10:30AM - 1:00PM

LIVE MUSIC, GAMES, BOUNCE HOUSES, PATRIOTIC POOCH  
DOG CONTEST, MECHANICAL BULL AND MORE!

COMPLIMENTARY POPCORN, FREE HOTDOGS BY ROSS  
POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, AND FOOD FOR  
PURCHASE FROM JOHNNY'S DONUTS AND CHEF JIM'S  
BBQ.

SIGN UP FOR THE PARADE, TO VOLUNTEER, AND TO ENTER  
YOUR DOG IN THE CONTEST

[www.rossrecreation.org](http://www.rossrecreation.org)  
(415) 453-6020



To participate in the July 4th  
Town of Ross celebration,  
please click [here](#).



### *Sign up for Alert Marin*

Congratulations! Alert Marin sign-ups in Ross grew by 11.8% last quarter. Ross now has 60% of its adult residents signed up. We think we can do better!!

**Let's get our community alerted...Let's keep  
our community safe...Let's get to 100%!**

Scan the QR code below to sign up.





## Heart of Ross: Downtown Business Spotlight

Featuring What Makes Ross Unique



**Maison Marin** is located at 20 Ross Common.

Open Tuesday-Friday from 11am-4pm; Mondays by appointment.

For an appointment, call owners **Nousha or Cristina** at 415.532.2604, or email them at [hello@shopmaisonmarin.com](mailto:hello@shopmaisonmarin.com); Instagram @shopmaisonmarin



“Introducing a lifestyle brand founded by two friends, Nousha and Cristina, who have dedicated the past five years to sourcing exquisite treasures for their clients, friends, and themselves. Inspired by their travels, architecture, and the beauty of homes and gardens, they celebrate the art of finding elegance in everyday life. Throughout their journeys together and with their families, they’ve discovered exciting brands and unique pieces that they’re eager to share with their cherished community in Marin. With a deep passion for curating decor, art, and distinctive objects, these two dear friends invite you to explore a collection that transforms your home and garden into a haven of beauty and inspiration, showcasing treasures from around the globe.”

May 8, 2025 Council Review

June 12, 2025  
Council

## SAFETY ELEMENT

### **Building a Safer, More Resilient Ross: Town Council Considers Safety Element Update**

Ross Town Council **adopted Resolution No. 2503**, a key step in updating the **Safety Element** of the Town's General Plan. This update ensures the community is well-prepared for natural and human-made hazards, and aligns local planning with the most current data, state laws, and best practices.

## RADAR MOBILE TRAILER

### **Traffic Safety Efforts: Slowing Down for a Safer Town**

The Town of Ross Police are continuing their dedication and commitment to keeping Ross streets safe and calm. Over the past several months, officers have focused traffic enforcement efforts near our schools and in key areas like Shady Lane, Laurel Grove, the Winship Neighborhood, and Sir Francis Drake Boulevard.

## NEW TOWN GOAL

### **Strengthening Connection: Town Council Adds New Goal on Communication with Residents**

At the April 24, 2025 Budget Workshop, the Ross Town Council explored an important new addition to the Town's guiding principles—a **proposed eighth goal focused on communication**.

The proposed new goal is:

**“Provide effective and timely communication with residents.”**



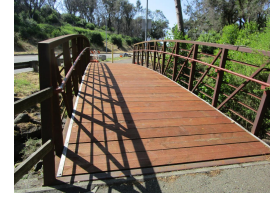
#### **TOWN GOALS**

1. **Provide transparency, consistency, and fairness in government**
2. **Sustain financial responsibility and stability**
3. **Enhance effectiveness and efficiency of delivery of services**
4. **Maintain a safe community and improve emergency preparedness**
5. **Foster and strengthen community involvement**
6. **Maintain and improve infrastructure and facilities**
7. **Promote environmental stewardship**
8. **Provide effective and timely communication with residents**

Adopted 5/26/2025

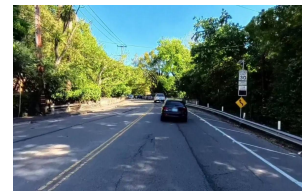
## **Review**

## NATALIE COFFIN GREENE BRIDGES



The Town Council approved the purchase of three prefabricated steel truss bridges for the Natalie Coffin Greene Park Bridge Replacement Project at the June 12, 2025 Council meeting. Staff proposes to use a “weathered” steel finish, with wood bridge decking railing. The handrails to be installed at the approaches to the bridges will be constructed out of timber on site to match the rustic look and feel of the new bridges within the park setting. The cost of the three bridges is \$125,000 and are scheduled to be installed at the park in the late Fall of this year.

## SUMMER PAVING PROJECTS ON SFD



The Public Works Department will be starting a major roadway project to repave and restripe Sir Francis Drake Boulevard between Bolinas Avenue and El Camino Bueno, beginning sometime after mid-July this summer. Drivers should expect significant traffic delays for several weeks during construction so please plan ahead. The actual schedule of the lane closures will not be known until just before construction begins, but Town staff will do everything possible to have all of the lanes opened before school starts again in August. More information on the lane closure schedule will be released as soon as it is available.

## 25/26 BUDGET

The Ross Town Council passed the FY 25/26 budget. The budget provides current services to Town of Ross residents as well as new projects and programs that have been discussed by the Town Council during the course of the fiscal year and at the Budget Workshop on April 24, 2025, which also included a five-year forecast and a draft capital improvement plan. The budget message at the beginning of the budget document provides a summary of the overall budget.

## **PLANNING RESULTS**

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the June 10, 2025 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be

found on the Town's June 10 website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted on this page after adoption by the Council.

**Address: 87 Glenwood Avenue**  
**Applicant: Barbara Chambers**  
**(Architect)**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**

**Address: 103 Bolinas Road**  
**Applicant: J. Boesel & A. Van Meurs**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0**



Age Friendly network was established by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2010. Age Friendly

fosters healthy and active aging to enable older adults to age safely and comfortably in a place that is right for them.

The Ross Age Friendly Task Force was formed in 2018 and meets monthly to provide ideas on social participation, communication, emergency preparedness, community participation and health services.

To implement these ideas, Age Friendly Ross has sponsored lunches and breakfasts to discuss current matters, we have assisted with emergency preparedness meetings, and contribute monthly to the Town of Ross Morning After publication with tips for seniors and other information of interest to seniors and the community.

Ross Age Friendly coordinates with the Center for Independent Living and is working with Ross Rec on classes for seniors.

Nearly 1/3 of the Ross community are seniors and the percentage is growing. Come join our ranks.

We can be contacted at [agefriendly@townofrossca.gov](mailto:agefriendly@townofrossca.gov) All are welcome.

## Join us at a Repair Fair in 2025!

[Zero Waste Marin](#) is working on a pilot program with non-profit **Reuse Alliance** to bring free Repair Fairs to Marin County!

**Fairfax: Saturday, June 28th, 2025, 1pm – 4pm, Fairfax Public Library 2097 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Fairfax**  
**Marin City: Saturday, August 16th,**



## June Fire-smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners

### June: Water Wise Strategies

As spring transitions into the dryer months of summer, now is the time to check and refine your irrigation system to keep your plants appropriately hydrated. Having healthy and hydrated plants is an important component of a Fire-smart Landscape.

Healthy and hydrated plants:

- Are more difficult to ignite than dry, parched vegetation
- Have less dead material that provides fuel for fires

Use these important fire-smart & water-wise landscaping strategies:

- [Help your soil](#) maintain moisture by using compost and appropriate [fire-smart mulches](#).
- Learn [how much water your plants need](#) and give them the right amount as the seasons change. **OVER IRRIGATION IS COMMON**, wastes precious water, and if prolonged, can lead to plants wilting, turning yellow, losing leaves, and roots rotting.
- When adding new plants to an established garden area, make sure the water needs of the new plants match the watering needs of the existing plants so they don't get too much or too little water. Keep in mind that new plants may require more water until they are established.
- For more efficient irrigation methods, consider using [flow meters, soaker hoses, drip irrigation, and irrigation controllers](#).
- Water your plants in the early morning, applying water to the plant's dripline, the area beneath the plant where rainwater naturally drips from the outermost leaves to the ground.
- Use fertilizers sparingly. They make plants grow quickly and require more water to support new growth.
- It is best practice to avoid planting new plants during the hot summer months. They need more water to establish themselves and thrive.

## Reminder, Chipper Days are here!

Make a reservation to get rid of garden debris by going to:

<https://www.chipperday.com/marin>



**2025, 1pm – 4pm** (includes a book swap),  
Marin City Library 101 Donahue St,  
Marin City  
**San Anselmo: Saturday, September  
13th, 1pm – 4pm**, San Anselmo Library,  
110 Tunstead Ave, San Anselmo

Chippers can take tree limbs up to 8 inches in diameter and shrubs, brush, limbs, woody branches, broom, cypress, juniper, and firewood. Please, no regular yard waste.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPING, VISIT [MARIN MASTER GARDENER WEBSITE](#).**



The **Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority** and your **local fire department** are working together to help reduce wildfire risk in your community. As part of this effort, **home hardening and defensible space evaluations** will take place in your neighborhood.

Starting **as early as June 16, 2025**, in the **Laurel Grove neighborhood of Ross** will undergo wildfire risk evaluations conducted by trained Inspectors acting under the **authority of the local Fire Chief**. If you are not home, inspectors will assess only what is visible from the street to your front door.

## Your Wildfire Risk Report

Approximately **24 hours after inspection**, your personalized **Wildfire Risk Report** will be available. This report provides **clear steps to improve your home's wildfire resilience**. Some actions may be **required by law**, and all property owners must **maintain vegetation year-round**—*don't wait for an inspection to begin necessary work*.

## How to Access Your Report

- **Online:** Visit [www.defensiblespacereport.org/marin](http://www.defensiblespacereport.org/marin) to review your report and access resources.
- **By Mail:** Request a printed copy by calling **(415) 275-1185**.
- **Eligibility:** Reports are available to **property owners, renters, and authorized representatives**.

This program is provided by your **local fire department** and the **Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority**, funded by **Measure C (2020)**.

By taking action now, we can all help create a safer, more wildfire-resilient community.





### Ross Recreation Camps:

- Top Gun (Ages 7-14)
- Sporty Girls (Ages 6-11)
- Kinder Camp (Entering Ross School Kindergarten)
- Art & Garden Camp (Ages 5-8)
- **(NEW! 9am-3pm)** Wilderness Camp (Ages 5-9)
- **(NEW!)** CIT Program (Grades 7th-10th)

### Contract Instructor Camps:

- Chess (Grades 1st-5th)
- LEGO (Ages 5-6)
- Code & Create: LEGO (Ages 7-12)
- Portugese Soccer (Ages 6-12)
- TGA Golf (Ages 7-11)
- Higgins Tennis (Ages 6-12)
- **(NEW!)** French (Grades K-5th)

Check out the Summer Camp page on our website for all camp offerings! →



## ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### June 2025

June 19 All day Juneteenth holiday—Town Administrative Offices closed

### July 2025

July 4 10:00 am Ross July 4th Parade (Ross Common)

July 4 All day July 4th Holiday—Town Administrative Offices Closed

July 7 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)

July 10 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

July 15 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom) - CANCELLED

### August 2025

August 14 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

August 19 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

## CONTACT US

Administration Office 415-453-1453 x105

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Building Department 415-453-1453 x106

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Bldg Inspection Hotline 415-453-1453 x170

- [breher@townofrossca.gov](mailto:breher@townofrossca.gov)

Police Department 415-453-1453, Opt. 2

- [rpata@townofrossca.gov](mailto:rpata@townofrossca.gov)

Public Works Director 415-453-1453 x115

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Recreation Department 415-453-6020

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- [cjohnson@townofrossca.gov](mailto:cjohnson@townofrossca.gov)

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