

# THE ROSS REVIEW

Volume 2 | Issue 1 | January 2026

## Mayor's Report



Mayor Julie McMillan

I want to update residents about what's happening at Ross Recreation. The Ross Rec team continues to offer many wonderful recreational programs to residents of all ages, with a very positive response from our community.

**Thriving Youth Programs:** Winter Youth Basketball started this week with more than 250 kids from grades K-4, focusing on team development and skill-building. Kids Club is experiencing a resurgence, now serving 15-25 afterschool participants daily, providing families with flexible afterschool care. The youngest residents have many options: Wilderness Cubs brings outdoor exploration to Natalie Coffin Greene Park; Ross Rec has partnered with MAGC's Garden School to launch Happy Hive, an afterschool program for ages 2-4; and morning toddler and parent programs

are currently being developed for new and young families. Based on parent feedback, Ross Rec is continuing to host Day Camps when Ross School is not in session.

**Offering Programs Throughout Ross:** Ross Rec is collaborating with community partners to offer programs at MAGC and the Ross Town Hall. Youth can enjoy afterschool 23 Elephants mini-musicals, Art Explorations, and Little Green Thumbs gardening. Adults can access a Weekly Age-Friendly Social Tea, Mah Jongg, Tai Chi, Modern Bridge, and Senior Strength Training.

**Age-Friendly Ross's New Digital Home:** Ross Rec will be launching a new website, [www.agefriendlyross.org](http://www.agefriendlyross.org), to make it easier to find events, programs, volunteer opportunities, and helpful resources.

**Coming Soon:** Ross Rec is organizing many other wonderful events for our community: the third annual Age-Friendly Valentine's Luncheon on Thursday, February 12 (with former Ross Mayor Beach Kuhl serving as MC); the second annual Mother-Child Pickleball Tournament (in April at the Ross pickleball courts); and new family programs such as Tuesday Rec Night at the Ross School Gym, Adult Flag Football, and Adult Volleyball. And although it seems like winter may never end, Summer Camp Registration is just around the corner.

To learn more about Ross Recreation and its many programs, please visit <https://www.rossrecreation.org>

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**Chat with the Council every month on the day of the Council Meeting from 11am-1pm at the Ross Post Office.**

(Council Meetings are held the Second Thursday of the Month unless otherwise noted.)

**PLEASE NOTE, DUE TO THE AGE FRIENDLY BREAKFAST ON FEBRUARY 12, THE COUNCIL WILL NOT BE AT THE POST OFFICE.**

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# January 8, 2026 Council Meeting Highlights

## [Elections Code 9212 Report](#)



### **Town Council Received Elections Code Section 9212 Report**

At its January 8, 2026 meeting, the Town of Ross Town Council received an Elections Code Section 9212 report

following a staff presentation and consultant overview. The report evaluates the potential fiscal and operational impacts associated with the proposed voter initiative submitted by the Friends of the Ross Firehouse (FORF) related to Town facilities and public safety services.

#### **Background on the Friends of Ross Firehouse Initiative**

The Section 9212 report was prepared in response to a voter initiative submitted by FORF. The initiative proposes changes related to the future of fire protection services and facilities in Ross, including the potential restoration of a staffed fire station within Town limits. As required by state law, the Town conducted an independent fiscal and operational analysis of the initiative's potential impacts before the Council considered whether to place the measure on a future ballot.

#### **What is Elections Code Section 9212?**

California Elections Code Section 9212 requires a city or town council to obtain and publicly consider an impartial analysis of the fiscal impacts of a proposed initiative before taking action on the measure. The purpose of the law is to ensure transparency and provide voters with objective information about potential costs, funding considerations, and operational effects. Receipt of a Section 9212 report does not indicate support for or opposition to a proposed initiative; it fulfills a procedural requirement under state law.

#### **Overview of the January 8 Presentation**

During the January 8 meeting, staff and consultants presented a high-level overview of the report's scope, methodology, and findings. The presentation included input from Mary McGrath Architects, Citygate Associates, and RSG Solutions, addressing facilities planning considerations, public safety service delivery, and fiscal impacts evaluated as part of the analysis.

#### **Summary of Key Findings**

The Elections Code Section 9212 Report concludes that adoption of the Initiative would have the following principal effects: Fiscal Impacts

- One-time General Fund costs estimated between \$25.6 million and \$37.5 million, primarily related to construction of a new fire station, relocation of existing civic uses, and required updates to the Facilities Master Plan.
- In addition to the \$2.7 million annual cost to be a member of the Ross Valley Fire District Joint Powers Authority, the ongoing annual operating costs are estimated to be between \$3.4 million and \$5.0 million.

The full Section 9212 report and the PowerPoint presentation from the January 8 meeting are available on the Town's website:

- [Section 9212 Agenda Report and Fiscal Impact Report](#)
- [January 8 Council Presentation](#)

The Section 9212 report is intended to inform both the Town Council and the public by outlining potential financial, operational, and service-level considerations should the initiative be approved by voters. The Council's receipt of the report allows the analysis to be made publicly available for community review. Residents are encouraged to review these materials to better understand the information presented to the Town Council.

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## **PLANNING RESULTS**

**There were no planning projects at the January 8, 2026 Council meeting.**

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# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JANUARY 2026

January 19 All Day - Town Offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. holiday

January 20 6:00pm - Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

## FEBRUARY 2026

February 12 11:00am - Age Friendly Valentine's Breakfast (MAGC Livermore Room)

February 12 6:00pm - Ross Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

February 16 All Day - Town Offices closed for President's Day holiday

February 17 6:00pm - Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

## MARCH 2026

March 12 6:00pm - Ross Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

March 17 6:00pm - Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

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## Heart of Ross: Downtown Business Spotlight

Featuring What Makes  
Ross Unique



*The Carey Hagglund Condy Team is the #1 Compass Team in Marin County and is proudly headquartered in downtown Ross. For more than two decades, Carey has led with trusted guidance, discretion, and an unwavering commitment to helping clients make smart, confident real estate decisions. With over 400 homes sold, more than \$1.2 billion in sales, and over \$400,000 in charitable giving, the team is deeply rooted in the community and a proud supporter of the Ross School.*

*Grounded in the core values of honesty and integrity, the team has earned a long-standing reputation as both a community leader and a trusted advisor. This commitment is expressed through the team's ethos—High Touch. Full Service. All Price Points.—with every detail approached thoughtfully, from preparation and presentation to negotiation and beyond.*

*The CHC Team includes agents Kaitlin Lopin Gilbert, Carli Beaumont, and Courtney Condy, alongside Listing Manager Rachel Breslauer, each offering hands-on expertise and a highly personalized experience for every client.*

23 Ross Common, Suite 3 Ross CA 94957  
P.O. Box 488 Ross, CA 94957  
415-342-2763



Ross Recreation, in partnership with Ross School and Bacich Elementary, offers a variety of after-school enrichment programs for students in grades K–5. These programs are designed to follow the school's bell schedules and provide students with opportunities to explore new interests, develop skills, and engage in creative activities. The following classes are on the verge of being cancelled if minimum numbers are not met. Check out what Ross Recreation has to offer by clicking the links below:

**Ross School:**

[Dungeons and Dragons \(Monday\) 4:30 - 6:00pm](#)  
[Higgins Youth Tennis 2nd-4th \(Monday\) 4:00 - 5:30](#)  
[Higgins Youth Tennis 5th-8th \(Monday\) 4:00 - 5:30pm](#)  
[Kinder TGA Junior Golf \(Tuesday\) 2:00 - 2:45pm](#)  
[TGA Junior Golf \(Tuesday\) 3:00 - 4:00pm](#)  
[Higgins Youth Tennis K-2nd \(Tuesday\) 2:45 - 4:00pm](#)  
[Higgins Youth Tennis 2nd-4th \(Tuesday\) 4:00 - 5:15pm](#)  
[Higgins Youth Tennis 5th-8th \(Tuesday\) 4:00-5:15pm](#)  
[Electronic Music Production \(Wednesday\) 1:50 - 3:00pm](#)  
[HRT High Performance Tennis Ages 8-12 \(Wednesday\) 2:00 - 4:00pm](#)  
[Higgins Youth Tennis K-2nd \(Thursday\) 2:45 - 4:00pm](#)  
[Higgins Youth Tennis 5th-8th \(Thursday\) 4:00 - 5:15pm](#)  
[Demon Hunters: The K-Pop Quest \(Thursday\) 3:00 - 4:15pm](#)  
[HRT High Performance Tennis Ages 8-12 \(Friday\) 3:30 - 5:30pm](#)

**Bacich:**

[French Youth \(Monday\) 2:55 - 3:55pm](#)  
[Youth Intermediate French \(Tuesday\) 2:55 - 3:55pm](#)  
[TGA Junior Golf Grades 1-4 \(Friday\) 2:55 - 4:00pm](#)

**Adult Enrichment Classes:**

[Adv Beginner to Low Intermediate \(Monday\) 11:30 - 1:00pm](#)  
[Beginner Pickleball \(Tuesday\) 11:15 - 12:30pm](#)  
[Tai Chi \(Tuesday\) 10:00 - 11:00am](#)  
[Modern Day Bridge Fundamentals \(Tuesday\) 1:30 - 3:30pm](#)  
[HRT High Performance Tennis \(Friday\) 9:00 - 10:30am](#)  
[HRT High Performance Tennis \(Friday\) 10:30 - 12:00pm](#)



**No School Day Camp – January 19th from 9am-2pm**  
**Daily price \$100**

There may be no school, but the excitement continues at our No School Day Camp, taking place on Monday, January 19th!

Join us for a fun-filled day packed with creative arts and crafts, exciting games, and plenty of outdoor play.

Camp runs from 9:00am–2:00pm and is open to children in kindergarten through 3rd grade. It's the perfect way for kids to stay active, engaged, and having fun while school is out.

Last chance to register! If minimum numbers are not met, unfortunately, camp will be canceled.

*Deadline to register: Morning of Thursday, January 15th*



Designed especially for preschoolers! Our No-School Day Camp offers a warm, playful, and engaging environment where young children can explore, create, and learn.

We are open for preschoolers who are potty trained and not napping.

**Daily Activities Include:**

- Creative arts & crafts
- Exploring outdoor environments
- Music and movement
- Sensory play
- Indoor and outdoor games
- Mealtime (please provide a nut-free lunch for your child - we will provide a few snacks and treats)

Last chance to register! If minimum numbers are not met, unfortunately, camp will be canceled.

*Deadline to register: Morning of Thursday, January 15th*

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## 2026 Tennis Court Access Keys Are Now Available For Purchase!

The keys are not yet in hand, but you can pre-order. Once the keys are received by Ross Rec, messages will be sent out to let you know when you can pick them up. Until then, your 2025 keys will still grant you access to the courts... until the locks are officially changed.



Keys provide residents with annual access to the Town of Ross multi-use tennis and pickleball courts and are renewed at the end of December each year.

**Important Notes:**

- Town of Ross Residents, Ross Business Owners, RSD Staff, and families currently enrolled in Ross School are eligible to purchase keys. Proof of residency is required at the time of key pickup. One key per resident
- \$125 annual fee (prorated fees start in June)
- \$25 for first replacement key (after first replacement, keyholder must purchase additional replacements at current rate)
- No reservations - first come, first served

Ross Recreation programs have priority use of the courts. Please review the scheduled classes. Schedule can be found at the courts, or on the Ross Recreation [website](#).

Ross Recreation, PO Box 117, Ross, United States

*You're invited to*  
**Age Friendly Ross'  
Annual Valentine's Luncheon**

**Thursday, February 12, 2026 11:00am - 1:30pm**

**Please join us for an  
Age Friendly Valentine's luncheon celebration  
held at the Marin Art and Garden Center to honor  
Ross' older residents,  
especially those 80 years of age and older.**

Enjoy great food, fine conversation, beautiful music from the Branson School a cappella Choir, lovely art by Cedars artists, and some nice surprises.

This free event is for Ross residents age 60+

*If you know an older Ross resident, especially someone who is 80 years of age or older, please reach out and let them know about this event.*

Parking is available at Marin Art and Garden Center.

**To register or ask questions, contact  
[agefriendly@townofrossca.gov](mailto:agefriendly@townofrossca.gov) or 415-453-6020.  
Please register by February 5th. Space is limited.**



The Age-Friendly Ross Taskforce is committed to working with residents of all ages, but with a particular focus on older adults; to listen, advocate and act in support of healthy and active aging.

Art by Cedars Artist Allis Gargan



## Good news on the Ross Post Office tables

The new interim Postmaster Theodore has given to OK to move the table at the Post Office. We now have one table on each side of the entrance doors (see photos).

Special thanks to Tom Gaffney for arranging the construction of the solid hardwood tables. The tables were handcrafted and paid for by the **Ross Property Owners Association (RPOA)** through contributions from Ross residents.

### RPOA Happenings:

Holiday Lights will stay up through the end of January.

New Flower Baskets will be delivered in March.

Ross Historical Society made progress with developing the "Ross Historical Walk". The concept is to highlight approximately 20 spots around town with QR -coded plaques detailing each spot's historical significance.

### Upcoming events:

Age-Friendly Ross Valentine's Day Luncheon for Ross Residents on Feb 12, MAGC

Live on the Common Concert "Petty Theft" on April 17, Ross Common

Ross Auxiliary Spring Dinner May 9, Location TBD

Ross Garden Walk May 17, Ross School PTO

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## Sign Up for Lagunitas Road Firewise

Hello Neighbors,

A new **Firewise Neighborhood** to include residences **south of Lagunitas Road** and **west of Sir Francis Drake Blvd** is being formed. Firewise is a volunteer, community-based organization that seeks to prepare our neighborhoods for potential wildfires and promotes proactive steps to prepare. This new Lagunitas Road neighborhood would be similar to the existing Barber-Winship neighborhood that has successfully helped residents on the east side of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. for the last five years.



**Joining is simple!** Please provide us with your name and e-mail address at the email listed below and you will be forwarded a simple form to complete. Our objective is to communicate with you best practices, help get you prepared and develop a plan that will see to the safety of your family and home.

**Join us today...**

e-mail your interest to: [lagunitasroadross@gmail.com](mailto:lagunitasroadross@gmail.com)



Jeff Kuhn  
past Marin County Civil Grand Jury Participant



Ed Schuller  
past Marin County Civil Grand Jury Participant

## MARIN COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY... GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO PARTICIPATING

Our lives are most directly affected by what happens here in our county. People look at Marin as a community of wealthy people living an idyllic lifestyle. But we are not immune to the problems of the nation and we have serious issues that need to be addressed now.

Each of us must be part of the solution. Marin is a marvelous place to call home but it needs us all to make a contribution. Volunteering to serve on the [Marin County Civil Grand Jury](#) provides us with a unique civic opportunity to fulfill this responsibility by being of service to our own community.

The civil grand jury differs from criminal grand juries, which are assembled to consider potential criminal wrongdoing. It is empaneled by the Marin County Superior Court to serve as a citizens' watchdog over the roughly 125 local government agencies that serve Marin. The jury's charge is to investigate local government operations and then offer recommendations that help them be more efficient, effective, transparent and accountable. The civil grand jury is independent and free to determine the agencies and issues that it will investigate.

Juries focus on those topics where they can make a helpful recommendation to improve Government service and the quality of life in Marin. The jury reports its findings and recommendations to the people of Marin County and to the elected officials, who have responsibility for overseeing the entities that have been investigated.

Between the county board of supervisors, city and town councils, school and special district boards, and countywide elected officials like the sheriff, tax collector, assessor, and others, Marin has more than 285 elected public officials. These representatives are required by law to respond to the findings and recommendations of the jury. This is an opportunity to have citizens contribute to our local government.

Civil grand jurors serve a one-year term, beginning in July. The jury consists of 19 members and 11 alternates. Each session inevitably leaves jurors enriched and proud of the issues they investigated and reported on. The positive responses that we have received from elected officials are particularly gratifying. Past reports covered transportation, mental health, justice, housing, civil responsibilities, education, workforce development, aging, electrical and water infrastructure facilities. All these reports and their responses can be seen by the public on the Marin Civil Grand Jury [website](#).

Take some time and read the reports. Hopefully, the thought and quality of these and other reports will inspire you to join Marin's next civil grand jury. Applications are now open for the 2026-2027 Marin Civil Grand Jury. Applicants must be 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen and a Marin County resident for at least one year. Applications can be completed [online](#).

## Save the Date for the 2026 Eco-Friendly Garden Tour

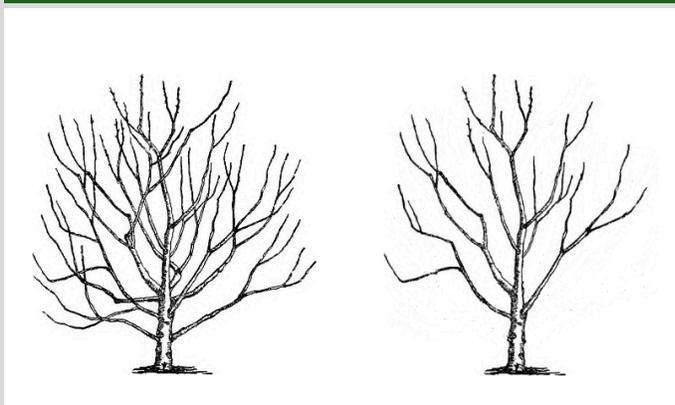
The 2026 Eco-Friendly Garden Tour will take place on Saturday, May 9th from **10:00am to 4:00pm!**

The Eco-Friendly Garden Tour is an annual tour showcasing local homes and gardens that have crafted beautiful, low water use, sustainable landscapes. It aims to demonstrate how native landscaping can be even more beautiful than traditional landscaping styles.

The self-guided tour will take place across Sonoma and Marin counties. It's a great way to celebrate gardening, find inspiration for your own projects, and connect with like-minded people.

Last year's tour featured 19 gardens and saw over 3,600 registrations. Local organizations provided educational information and advice at many of the gardens. The 2026 tour is expected to be even better!

**Registration is free but required** to attend. Keep an eye out for more updates in the coming months, including a registration link and a sneak peek of the featured gardens on the tour.



## MARIN MASTER GARDENERS

### January: Pruning and Thinning for Fire Safety

Winter is a great time to prune plants for fire safety. All plants can burn, but removing or trimming branches now can

reduce potential fuels and create space between plants and plant groupings to slow or interrupt the path of fire to your home during wildfire season.

Before you begin, you should understand how to prune for the health and aesthetics of your trees and shrubs. Knowing when to prune is also important, as some plants, including many [natives](#), should be pruned during the dry summer months when they are dormant. To preserve your health as well as the health of your trees, consult an arborist for large cuts and employ a professional if pruning near utility lines.

To [prune for fire safety](#), start at your house and work out:

- **Remove branches within 10 feet of your chimney**, as they can easily ignite from chimney sparks.
- **Remove, trim, or thin branches within 5 ft of your roof and sides of your home** as Trees close to your home increase plant debris on your roof, in your gutters, and within Zone 0. Regularly inspect and remove accumulated plant debris in these areas to reduce the risk of ignition of your home, particularly after storm events. Best practice is to have no plantings within 5' of your home.
- **Remove lower limbs of trees to reduce the potential of ignition from plants below.** For small or young trees, remove the lower branches, but ensure that the remaining branch canopy

comprises at least 2/3 of the tree's height. **Limb** up taller, more mature trees to 6-10 feet. Because ignited plants can have flames three times their height, you may also need to prune or remove plants beneath canopies to maintain necessary vertical spacing.

- **Thin/reduce dense foliage and branches** as they easily catch and retain dead plant debris in their interior that can easily ignite from embers.
- **Remove or trim branches that interfere with your walkways, driveways, and roadway adjacent to your property**, and keep them well-maintained, as low-hanging or poorly maintained trees may impact your ability to evacuate safely.

Click [here](#) for pruning how-to and timing information, including helpful videos.

**Register [here](#) for this February 4th online class on pruning deciduous trees.**

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

## Climate Action Workshops



**Embrace a healthy, low-carbon future**

Next **FREE** 5-Session Climate Action Workshops kick off **Jan 8 or Jan 14**



Learn More @ [ResilientNeighborhoods.org](http://ResilientNeighborhoods.org)

Join a free Climate Action Workshop to reduce your carbon footprint and prepare your family and community for the impacts of climate change.

These transformative 5-meeting sessions kick off on Jan 8 or Jan 14.

Sign up today: <http://tinyurl.com/RNProgram>

## ZERØWASTEMARIN

Shopping for winter clothes? Before you buy something new, we encourage you to take these actions to prevent textile waste!



### How to Create a Sustainable Winter Wardrobe →

ZERØWASTEMARIN

### Shop Second Hand

Check your local thrift store before buying a new item. Thrift stores are full of coats, warm pants, and boots that can be given a second life. You can also check out online secondhand stores such as Buy Nothing groups, Ebay, or Depop



ZERØWASTEMARIN

### Mend and Repair

Have a hole in your favorite sweater or a broken zipper on your coat? Learn to repair them by watching a YouTube tutorial or find a sewing workshop at your local craft store or community college!



ZERØWASTEMARIN

### Host a Clothing Swap

Looking for an indoor activity to do with your friends? Have everyone bring clothing items they no longer wear and host a clothing swap party! Shopping your friends' closets is a fun way to get something "new".



ZERØWASTEMARIN



### Keep Your Pup Safe with Marin Humane's New Pet Licensing Program

Making sure your dog is licensed not only helps keep them safe but is required by law. Marin Humane has a new, easy platform that ensures your furry friends stay safe and sound, all while supporting vital animal services in our community. Find out more: <http://marinhumane.org/licensing>



### How efficient is your household's water use?

Winter is a great time to take a fresh look at your household's indoor water use. With irrigation systems turned off and rain and cooler temps doing the work outside, most of the water you use now reflects everyday habits, such as laundry and dishwashing, or costly leaks you may not even know about.

An efficient Marin Water residential customer uses around 40 gallons or less per person per day indoors. Marin Water's Online Water Use Efficiency Estimator shows how your home compares to an efficient household, and offers tips on where you may have opportunities to save. Use the tool to see how your household stacks up.

## CONTACT US

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- Town Manager 415-453-1453 x107
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- Ross Valley Fire Dept 415-258-4686

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