

THE ROSS REVIEW

Volume 2 | Issue 3 | March 2026

Mayor's Report



Mayor Julie McMillan

Mayor's Report - March 2026

In late February, Town Manager Johnson released additional reports providing further analysis of FORF's reports and Slide Deck presented at the January 8 Council meeting. (The Town's Elections Code Report analyzing the fiscal impacts of FORF's initiative was made available in early January.) Key conclusions are:

- The FORF Slide Deck is appropriate for illustrative and advocacy purposes.
- It does not constitute a technical demonstration of feasibility or compliance.
- It should not be relied upon as evidence that the initiative can be implemented
 - o At the stated cost (it does not identify a viable funding source for capital costs and on-going (into perpetuity) operational expenses),
 - o On the implied timeline,
 - o Without significant displacement,
 - o Without material CEQA and permitting risk.
- Further technical work would be required.

I encourage you to review these detailed reports by clicking [here](#).

At the February Council meeting, Ross Treasurer Jeff Kuhn (as a private citizen) and Friends of the Ross Firehouse (FORF) President Bob Herbst offered to form a Citizens Advisory Committee to address the Ross Fire Station, including fire operating services, and the other facilities at the Civic Center (Police, Paramedics, Administrative and Public Works staff). The Citizens Advisory Committee has been meeting frequently; thanks to Jeff, Bob, and Committee members Ed Dong, Jeff Koblick, Joey Buckingham, Tom Gaffney (replacing Bill Cahill), Bill Poland and Dan Winey. The Council looks forward to receiving their report soon.

Ross Town Council members belong to the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers (MCCMC), with ten other jurisdictions, to promote cooperation and good working relationships. Last month MCCMC met at College of Marin's (COM) new state of the art Center for Student Success in Kentfield. This year marks COM's 100th Anniversary, which Marin residents supported in 1926 with a 15¢ parcel tax. Today COM serves 7,000 students each semester and has the highest UC transfer acceptance rate in Northern California. Assemblyman Damon Connolly outlined proposed legislation, and CEO Omar Carrera discussed Canal Alliance's work to help break the generational cycle of poverty for Latino immigrants and their families.

Finally, tonight the Town celebrated two dedicated Ross community members' retirements: US Postmistress Anabella Serrano and Town Clerk Cyndie Martel. We presented proclamations to recognize, thank and wish Ana and Cyndie well in their next chapters.

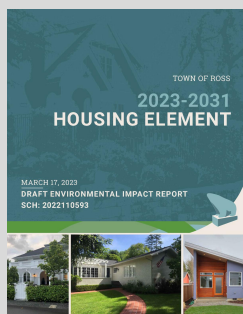
**Chat with the Council every month on the day of the Council Meeting
from 11am-1pm at the Ross Post Office.**

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



March 12, 2026 Council Meeting Highlights

6th Cycle Housing Element Update

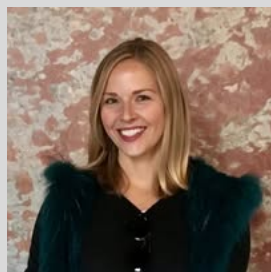


Town Council reviewed the information provided in the 6th Cycle Housing Element Update, Annual Progress Report and General Plan Annual Progress Report for 2025. The Council authorized its submittal to the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation and to the State Department of Housing and Community Development with respect to the Housing Element Annual Progress Report.

Chief Pata Receives His Five Year Service Award

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Chief Raffaello Pata for 5 years of exemplary service to the Town of Ross. A Marin County native, Pata was born and raised in San Rafael, and started his public service career as a San Rafael Fire Department Dispatcher at the age of 17. Ralph has a deep commitment to serve and interact with the community and a proven track record as a leader in collaborative and community policing.



Appointing Laura Dewar to Another Term on ADR

The Town Council adopted Resolution No. 2612 re-appointing Laura Dewar to serve another two year term. The volunteers for the Advisory Design Review group meet once per month on the third Tuesday in Town Hall at 6pm. They review designs, plans and make site visits. The time they devote to the Town of Ross is much appreciated.

Town Clerk Cyndie Martel Retiring

Town Clerk Cyndie Martel announced in January her plan to retire in March of 2026. She began her career with the Town of Ross in November 2022 and although she has enjoyed her years working for the Town of Ross, she is ready to begin this new chapter in her life. She bids all a fond adieu.

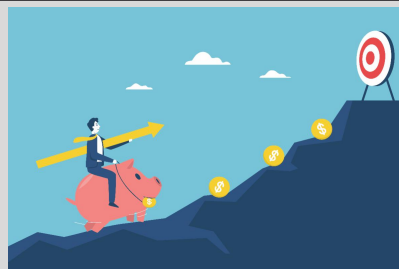


Shady Lane Safe Routes to School Project

Town Council authorized the Public Works Director to advertise for public construction bids for the Shady Lane Safe Routes to School Project. The Project completes the asphalt pedestrian pathway rehabilitation between Southwood Avenue and Fernhill Avenue and resurfaces the entire length of roadway between Lagunitas Road and Bolinas Avenue

Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

Town Council received an update regarding the implementation of the adopted Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and discussed any desired changes or additions to the CIP for the upcoming fiscal year. Based on this discussion, a final draft version of the CIP will be included for consideration in the fiscal year 2026-2027 (FYE27) budget discussions.



PLANNING RESULTS

No planning items were reviewed at the March 12, 2026 Council Meeting.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2026

April 2 6:00pm - Ross Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

April 17 5:00pm - Live on the Common (Ross Common)

April 21 6:00pm - Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

April 23 9:00am - Budget Workshop (Town Hall & Zoom)

April 29 6:00pm - Tentative Special Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

May 2026

May 14 6:00pm - Ross Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

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

May 25 All Day - Memorial Day Holiday - Town offices closed



Heart of Ross: Downtown Business Spotlight

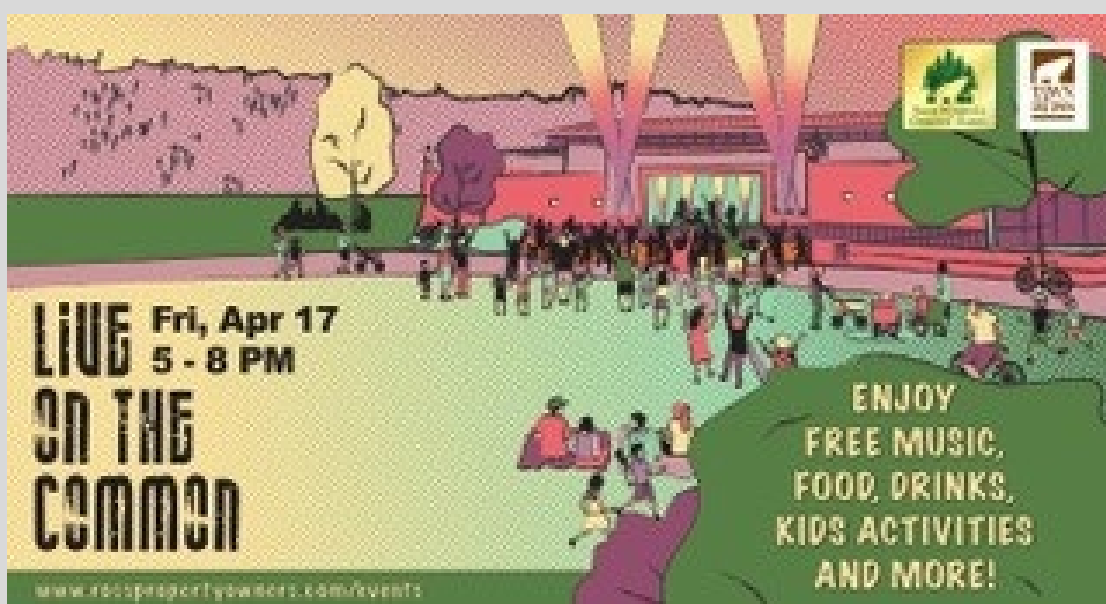
Featuring What Makes
Ross Unique

Cali Stitch Needlepoint

Cali Stitch Needlepoint is a modern needlepoint shop founded by Julie Dolan and Lauren Haswell, two friends with a shared passion for all things needlepoint. Cali Stitch opened in mid December and is a cozy, welcoming space filled with a curated collection of hand-painted canvases, specialty threads, and needlepoint accessories to inspire stitchers of every level—from beginners to experienced enthusiasts. We offer private and group beginner classes (twice a month) as well as trunk shows and other special events. Follow us on Instagram at @Calistitchneedlepoint for the full schedule of events.

30 C Ross Common
calistitchneedlepoint.com

Shop hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM and Thursday, 1:00-7:00



Live On The Common

Friday, April 17 2026

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

MUSIC

Petty Theft

San Francisco's premier Petty Theft tribute band brings the iconic sound of Tom Petty to life with high-energy, authentic performances of his greatest hits.

Readers' Choice Awards: Voted Best of Marin's Local Band 2026

FOOD & DRINK

Tony Tutto Pizza

Delicious organic, seasonal, and artisanal pizzas crafted with care. [Pre-order](#) your pizza to skip the line, or grab a convenient [family pack](#) special with just a click.

Taqueria Marin

Classic Mexican street-style favorites featuring a full menu of tacos, burritos, enchiladas, quesadillas, nachos, tortas, fresh salads, house-made salsas, and more. Pre-order to save time in line.

Riley's Food Truck

Serving up crave-worthy comfort food including chicken sandwiches, crispy chicken Caesar salad, chicken & waffles, loaded fries, chicken tacos, and more.

HopMonk Tavern Truck

Fresh, locally sourced, seasonal ingredients come together in handcrafted artisanal sandwiches and thoughtfully curated eats.

CurveBall Food Truck

A local favorite since 2014, serving up flavorful sliders, juicy burgers, and classic fries.

Poke-A-Go-Go

Fresh, healthy poke bowls and more—perfect for a light and refreshing option.

6oz Wine Bar

A beloved local wine bar from Ross offering wine, beer, and other adult beverages. Now featuring beers from Best Day Brewing.

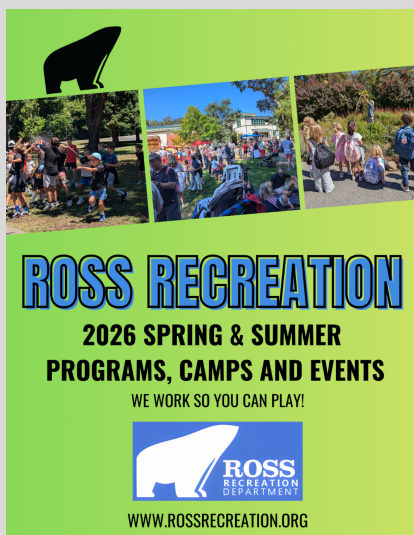
Kona Ice Truck

A fun, one-of-a-kind gourmet shaved ice experience with a wide variety of customizable flavors.

ACTIVITIES

AndrewsCamps

Kids can jump into a wide range of exciting, supervised games and activities led by the energetic AndrewsCamps team. From dodgeball and capture-the-flag to parachute games, musical hula hoops, tug-of-war, and more—there's something fun for every age group.



[Spring & Summer 2026 Guidebook](#)

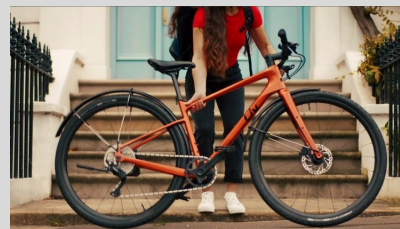
[Register for Summer Camps 2026!](#)

[Register for Spring Classes 2026!](#)

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Wheel Kids Bike Club is Back

Join the Club!
Wednesdays
1:45 - 4:15



This popular program is back at Ross, starting again this spring. Kids get the chance to ride together through their community as they learn safety fundamentals. This class is our only program not to register on the Sawyer platform. The link to register is here:

[Link for Wheel Kids Bike Club](#)

There's More Biking

If a weekly class doesn't work for your kids' schedules, Wheel Kids is partnering with Ross Recreation and Walk & Roll for more April clinics! These one day opportunities are another good way to get kids out practicing safe riding on the road.

2nd graders can sign up for the April 13th clinic: **Ross Recreation - Walk and Roll Bike Clinic - 2nd Graders**

3rd and 4th graders can sign up for the April 20th clinic: **Ross Recreation - Walk and Roll Bike Clinic - 3rd & 4th Graders**

But space is limited and filling fast!

Get Outside and Play Some Sports!

With the weather getting warmer soon, there's plenty more options for after school sports with Ross Recreation.

Coach Schafer is coming to Ross Elementary for the following after school programs:

Mondays, 3:15 - 4:15

Ross Recreation - Sporty Girl Sports K-2 (Monday)

Mondays, 4:15 - 5:15

Ross Recreation - All Sports (K-2)

Tuesdays, 3:15 - 4:15

Ross Recreation - Soccer (Grades K-2)

Thursdays, 3:15 - 4:15

Ross Recreation - Coed Lacrosse (K-2)

And by popular demand, Coach C's All-Out Afterschool Sports is coming back to Wednesdays, from 1:45 - 3:00!

Ross Recreation - All-Out Afterschool Sports! (Gr. 1-5)

Our golf classes with TGA Golf are another great option - at both Ross School and Bacich Elementary.

Mondays, 2:00 - 2:50 at Ross Elementary for Kindergarten

Ross Recreation - TGA Junior Golf (Kinder)

Mondays, 3:00 - 4:00 at Ross Elementary, Grades 1-4

Ross Recreation - TGA Junior Golf

Fridays, 2:00 - 2:50 at Bacich Elementary for Kindergarten

Ross Recreation - TGA Junior Golf at Bacich (Kinder)

Fridays, 2:55 - 4:00 at Bacich Elementary, Grades 1-4

Ross Recreation - TGA Junior Golf at Bacich



Inspire Creativity After School

New! - Nature Inspired Art Lab



***Mondays | 2:00 - 3:00pm | Kinder
March 23 - June 1 at Ross School***

Students will explore drawing, painting, and mixed-media art through the lens of nature and the seasons. Using inspiration from plants, animals, textures, and landscapes, young artists will experiment with watercolor, collage, and drawing. Emphasis is placed on creativity, curiosity, and confidence rather than the "perfect" results. Each week introduces a new material or technique, encouraging self-expression and imaginative thinking while building foundational art skills.

Register at www.hisawyer.com

Art Explorations

Wednesdays | 1:50 - 4:00PM |

Grades 2nd - 6th

March 25 - June 3

Marin Art & Garden Center

In this TWO-HOUR class, taught by two credentialed art teachers, students receive instruction about seeing the natural world around the gardens, as well as accessing realms within their imagination to create unique expressions of fine art. Specific skills of drawing, painting and sculpting are taught and built upon over time with the goal of allowing freedom to achieve art reflective of their desired goal.



Register at www.hisawyer.com

Introduction to ArKIDtecture



Thursdays | March 26 - June 4

Kinder: 2:00 - 2:45pm

Grades 1-4: 3:00 - 4:00pm

Ross School

Curious about how buildings and cities are designed? In this hands-on class, students will explore the exciting world of architecture by learning the basics of design, structure, and creativity. Through various fun activities like building mini models, and experimenting with materials, participants will discover how architects turn ideas into real spaces. Perfect for curious minds who enjoy building, drawing, and imagining the places of the future!

Register at www.hisawyer.com

Check out these options for Adult classes this spring:

NEW - Driftwood Painting Two-Day Workshop

Discover the art of driftwood painting in this brand new, hands-on two-day workshop! Two sessions are available — April 13 & 14, or May 18 & 19 — both running 10:00am–12:00pm. \$225 per two-day workshop.



Register at www.hisawyer.com

Tai Chi with Hal Mosher



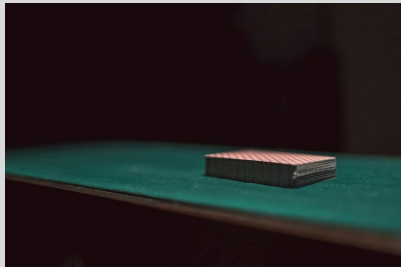
Tai Chi has been shown to reduce stress, improve balance, and boost overall well-being. It's low impact, making it a great choice for adults of any fitness level. If you've been curious about it, this 7-week series at the Marin Art and Garden Center is the perfect way to give it a try.

Register at www.hisawyer.com

Pickleball

Pickleball is fun, addictive, and easier to learn than you'd think. Join a class and find out why everyone seems to be picking up a paddle these days!

Register at www.hisawyer.com



Pickleball is fun, addictive, and easier to learn than you'd think. Join a class and find out why everyone seems to be picking up a paddle these days!

Register at www.hisawyer.com

You're Invited To Age Friendly Ross'
Breakfast Gathering About

Spring Gardening

Tuesday, April 7th 10am - 11:30am Marin Art & Garden Center

Join **Age Friendly Ross** for a gathering
for Ross Residents
on Tuesday, April 7 from 10am-11:30am
at Marin Art & Garden Center
30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd in Ross
Livermore Room

Michael Bogart, Garden Manager for
Marin Art & Garden Center will
speak about Spring Gardening
Opening remarks from Julie McMillan,
Marin Master Gardener and Town of Ross Mayor

Light breakfast will be provided.

Please RSVP by April 1st
to Maureen Borthwick, Ross Recreation Manager,
at agefriendly@townofrossca.gov or (415) 453-6020



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.

Artwork by Cedars artist Gail Garcia

Register at www.hisawyer.com



The Ross Auxiliary Spring Dinner is back!! Saturday, May 9, 2026

Spring is in the air, and so is one of our town's most cherished traditions!

We are thrilled to officially invite you to the Ross Spring Dinner on Saturday, May 9th

This decades-long biennial tradition is the perfect way to celebrate the season with both old friends and new neighbors. We'll begin the evening with a vibrant cocktail reception in the gardens of the Lourdeaux Estate, followed by intimate, catered dinner parties hosted in beautiful homes throughout Ross.

The Details:

- When: Saturday, May 9th
- Cocktail Reception: 5:00 – 6:30 PM (Lourdeaux Estate)
- Dinner Parties: 7:00 – 10:00 PM (Private Residences)
- Attire: "Floral Fête" – Please come dressed in your favorite vibrant colors!

Why You Should Join Us: The magic of the Ross Spring Dinner lies in the surprise. Guests are randomly assigned to small dinner groups (couples stay together!), allowing us to foster the unique sense of community that makes our town so special. You'll enjoy a seasonal three-course meal prepared by wonderful local chefs, paired with stellar wine and exceptional company.

Garden Walk 2026

Join us for an age-friendly walkable tour of 5 private gardens plus a Garden Market along Glenwood Avenue between Lagunitas Road & Fernhill Avenue in Ross. Each garden features a unique style appealing to men, women, master gardeners and garden enthusiasts!

Grab your friend, partner and parents and enjoy a wonderful afternoon touring stunning themed gardens!

Register at <https://www.rossbearspto.com/gardenwalk>



What if wildfire safety made your yard more livable and enjoyable?

Zone 0, the five feet closest to your home, is one of the most important spaces for wildfire protection. Noncombustible materials, such as gravel, stone, or pavers can make a beautiful area that:

- > Reduces ember ignition risk
- > Cuts back on watering and maintenance
- > Creates clean, usable spaces

Beyond Zone 0, drought-tolerant plants and thoughtful layouts help yards stay green, inviting, and easy to care for. It's also a perfect place to create defined outdoor areas for gathering, play, and everyday use.

Resilient yards aren't empty. They are an opportunity to create an area that requires less water, less upkeep, and more space for enjoying time with your friends and family.

Learn more about creating safer, low-maintenance outdoor spaces: <https://bit.ly/Resilience-Reimagined>. You can also watch videos about many fire safe options at www.youtube.com/@FIRESafeMARIN



Spring Climate Action Workshops

The Resilient Neighborhoods program offers free, 5-session online Climate Action Workshops to help Marin residents reduce waste, save energy and water, strengthen community resilience, and prepare for climate-related emergencies. Workshop participants meet online every other week for eight weeks, and a new round of workshops is starting this spring!

Sessions kick off March 25 (Wednesdays) or April 2 (Thursdays). Space is limited, so sign up today to secure your spot.



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.

Visit www.savingwaterpartnership.org/eco-friendly-garden-tour/ for more information

FIRE-SMART TIPS FROM THE UC MASTER GARDENERS

MARCH: Remove and Replace Invasive Plants



Scotch broom currently infests millions of acres throughout California. Photo: UC ANR

March is a great time to focus on removing invasive plants and setting your landscape up to be healthier, safer, and more fire-resilient. Invasive species grow quickly, crowd out beneficial plants, and often create dense, highly flammable fuel—exactly what we want to avoid as fire season approaches. Now is the time to remove and replace invasive plants before they spread further through seeds or spreading stems that grow underground (rhizomes) or above ground (runners/stolons) .

Zone 0 (0-5 feet from structures)

- Prioritize removing all vegetation from this zone to protect structures from fire
- Remove all invasive vines and climbing plants like ivy from building walls
- Consider installing metal edging to prevent invasive roots, rhizomes, and runners from spreading into this zone
- Regularly inspect for and remove any new invasive seedlings, especially after rain.

Zones 1 (5-30 feet) & 2 (30-100 feet)

- Prioritize removing **woody and dense invasives** such as broom, bamboo, and pampas grass to reduce the amount of fuel available to fire
- Remove invasive vine growth from trees to help prevent fire reaching tree canopies
- Replace undesirable plants with less aggressive varieties of California native plants, pollinator-friendly species, and low-water-use plants that offer many fire-smart options. Choose plants that retain higher moisture, grow slowly, require low maintenance, and contain low levels of oily resins. Avoid plants with dense or thatch-like branching, and select species that will be an appropriate size at maturity to maintain proper fire-smart spacing.
- When replacing invasives with new plants, use **appropriate spacing** based on the distance from any structures and the slope of the ground.
- Cover bare soil with **fire-smart mulch** such as medium sized woodchips to prevent weeds and other opportunistic plants from establishing. Do not use gorilla hair mulch.
- Continually monitor cleared areas for new growth

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPING, VISIT

<https://ucanr.edu/>

[Invasive Plants to Avoid](#)
[Containing and Removing Roots and Runners](#) [Bamboo](#)
[Choosing Plants for a Fire-Smart Landscape](#)
[California Native Plants](#)
[Pollinator Habitats](#)
[Low Water Use Plants](#)
[Woody and Dense Invasives](#)
[Fire-Smart Plant Spacing](#)
[Fire-Smart Mulch](#)

ZERØWASTEMARIN

Zero Waste Marin provides programs and resources to help residents and businesses safely dispose of HHW through recycling and drop-off options. Learn more about safe disposal solutions and find the [right program](#) for your needs.

What is Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)?

Hazardous waste is waste that has properties that make it potentially dangerous or harmful to humans' health or the environment. It can be liquids, solids, or contained gases.

HHW materials include the following categories:

- Electronics
- Paint
- Batteries
- Light Bulbs
- Household Chemicals
- Personal Care Products
- Gardening Products (like synthetic chemicals & fertilizers) Auto Care Products (like oil)

The EPA uses the following characteristics to define hazardous waste:

- Ignitability– Liquids or solids that are flammable or combustible
- Corrosivity – Highly reactive substances that cause rust, corrosion, and noticeable damage to living tissue; acids and bases are common corrosive materials
- Reactivity – Substances that, when mixed, create toxic, unstable, or explosive reactions
- Toxicity – Poisonous materials



 **MARIN WATER**
presents

2025-26 High School Video Contest

Your Water's Journey!

 **Create. Inspire. Win.**

Deadline March 26, 2026 for high school video contest featuring cash prizes

With less than two months before the submission deadline, it's time for local high school students to start recording, editing and preparing to wow the judges of Marin Water's Inaugural High School Video Contest.

Part of Marin Water's ongoing effort to support local youth education, this year's contest asks students to create a short video exploring the theme of

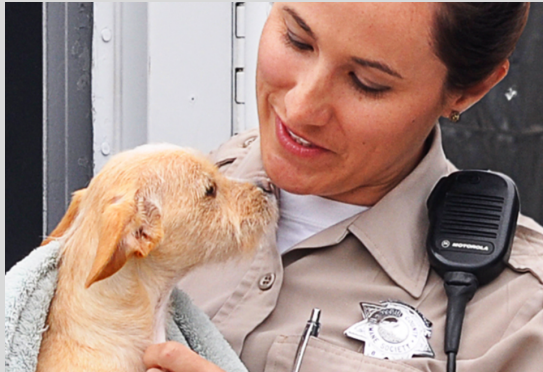
"Your Water's Journey."

Winners and their schools are even eligible for cash prizes!

Get Details at www.marinwater.org



Report Animal Abuse!



Animal abuse and neglect can take many forms, from lack of basic care to physical abuse or hoarding, and it can happen anywhere — even in Marin. If you're concerned about an animal's well-being, Marin Humane now offers a confidential, anonymous way to report suspected cruelty or neglect at marinhumane.org/report-cruelty. Community reports are often the only reason animals receive help, and speaking up is an important step toward protecting both animals and people.

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

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 320, Ross, CA 94957

Street Address: 31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Ross, CA 94957

Visit us at www.townofrossca.gov