

## **Mayor's Report**

July 2026



*Mayor Julie McMillan*

**Moving forward with our facilities project:** Last week the Town received five proposals from architecture firms (out of ten who earlier submitted their qualifications). [At the July 9, 2026 Council meeting] we will consider asking the Town Manager to negotiate a contract with one of the architects for Town Council approval as soon as possible.

**Ross Fire Station was addressed in the recent Marin County Grand Jury Report:** The June 11, 2026 Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report, "Better Service at Lower Cost – Optimizing Essential Services for the Future of Marin," recommends combining various Marin special districts to benefit residents to improve services at lower costs. It also addresses efforts to reopen the Ross fire station (and as noted in a recent IJ article):

"The fight to restore the Town of Ross Fire Station is a clear example of misguided civic engagement at odds with effective service today, which relies on coordinating resources across jurisdictions, not maintaining standalone structures for symbolic reasons. Ross' risk profile has also changed. Stronger building standards have reduced fire risk, while an aging population requires better medical response. Staffing a standalone station is easy to demand, but difficult to sustain, according to local firefighters. Rather than "building for yesterday," Ross' elected officials should focus on a coordinated countywide system, emphasizing strong medical response capabilities."

You can read the full report here:

[https://assets.marincounty.gov/marincounty-prod/public/2026-06/Better Service at Lower Cost.pdf?VersionId=xP88sGklmVnZdiNJyWtQac9BIOYqWRCd](https://assets.marincounty.gov/marincounty-prod/public/2026-06/Better%20Service%20at%20Lower%20Cost.pdf?VersionId=xP88sGklmVnZdiNJyWtQac9BIOYqWRCd)

The Town must respond to the Grand Jury's has requested a response from the Town of Ross, due by September 11, 2026.

**New Sir Francis Drake Paving:** Thanks to Public Works Director and Town Engineer Rich Simonitch, the paving last month on a portion of Sir Francis Drake went seamlessly and quickly. It's wonderful to drive on the new smooth surface, and the striping has made the roadway safer.

**Marin Wildfire Risk Evaluations:** This week, Marin Wildfire announced it will begin conducting free Wildfire Risk Evaluations in the Wellington and Shady Lane neighborhoods during the August 3rd time-frame. In the meantime, Marin Wildfire encourages you to review your 2024 inspection report and, if you haven't already, complete some of the recommendations. When inspectors arrive, please join them and learn more about hardening your home and making your garden safer. And please take advantage of Marin Wildfire's popular Chipper Day Program to remove yard debris; make a reservation for free pick up here: <https://reserve.chipperday.com/marin>

# Mayor's Report

## Mayor's Report - July 2026, continued

**4th of July Parade and Festivities:** We were delighted – but not surprised -- that former 3-time Ross Mayor and 12-year Councilmember Beach Kuhl was named Grand Marshall for the Town's 4th of July Parade to celebrate America's 250th Birthday. Beach and his wife Janey moved to Ross in 1974 and have been huge contributors to our Town ever since. Congratulations Beach and thank you (and Janey) for your many years of dedication and volunteer service! After the parade, residents enjoyed songs from the Shady Ladies, bluegrass from Windy Hill, and a beautiful solo by Hayden Haveland, Ross School graduate and rising Junior at Sonoma Academy. The day went off flawlessly, with enormous thanks to many, including:

- The Ross Police for serving delicious hamburgers, brisket and all the sides
- The volunteers (many young bakers) who contributed to the delicious pie competition
- Town Manager Johnson (and her husband and daughter) for guiding the many riders on the popular mechanical bull
- Ross Public Works members Anthony Alcozer and Zach Baker for their continuous help, an
- Ross Recreation staff Wyatt Mann (along with his wife and friends) and Mallory Beren (and her father) for organizing the day so everything ran perfectly and residents had a wonderful time!



Hayden Haveland Singing

**Chat with the Council every month on the day of the Council Meeting from 11am-1pm at the Ross Post Office. The next opportunity will be August 13, 2026 with Mayor Pro Tempore Robbins and Councilmember Salter**

**(Council Meetings held 2nd Thursday of each month, unless otherwise noted)**



### Honoring Anthony Alcozer for 10 years of service!

Thank you, Anthony, for keeping the Town Facilities in tip top shape and always being helpful and available. Your dedication to the Town, genuine kindness, and thoughtfulness in action make you an indispensable asset to our community. We hope to have you for another 10 years!

**We couldn't do it without you!**

### Proclamation Honoring Richard Simonitch for his 10 years of service and wishing him well in his retirement!

In his 10 years as Public Works Director and Town Engineer, Richard Simonitch oversaw the successful delivery of numerous capital improvement projects, including the Bolinas Avenue Storm Drain Improvement Project Phase 1, pavement rehabilitation on streets throughout Town, the conversion of 206 streetlights to LED technology, pedestrian safety improvements through the Laurel Grove Safe Pathway and Shady Lane Safe Routes to School projects, securing over \$1,000,000 in regional grant funding, installing new pedestrian bridges at Natalie Coffin Greene park, repaving Sir Frances Drake Blvd., and establishing utility undergrounding districts.



**We wish him well in his new endeavors!**



### Proclamation Honoring Mr. David Nasaw for his contribution for his contribution to the Ross Police department for 14 years.

Mr. David Nasaw, a Ross resident, has been a generous benefactor of the Town of Ross Police Department, beginning his charitable contributions in 2012 and continuing his steadfast support every year since. Thank you, Mr. Nasaw, for everything you have made possible for Ross' police officers; we are enormously grateful!

### Utility under-grounding projects in Ross.

Town Council received a status update from the Public Works Director regarding the current and proposed overhead utility undergrounding projects in Ross.





## Ross Civic Center alternative methods for implementation.

Town Council received a presentation regarding alternative project delivery and procurement methods for implementation of the Ross Civic Center Project and discussed the Town's priorities regarding project delivery, procurement, schedule, cost certainty, and risk allocation.

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## Facilities Master Plan Proposals

Town council received a report regarding the status of the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for professional planning, technical evaluation, and facilities master plan amendment services for the Ross Civic Center project

They considered directing the Town Manager to negotiate a professional services agreement with one of the firms responding to the RFP process. However, Town Council decided to allow the process to proceed with staff conducting interviews with the top three firms. The Town Manager's goal is to return to the Council in August with a professional service agreement with one of the top firms.



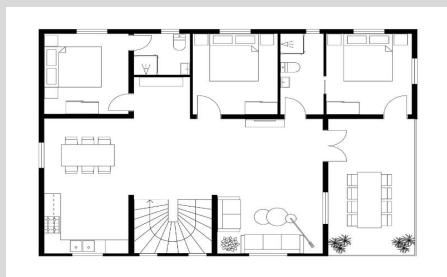
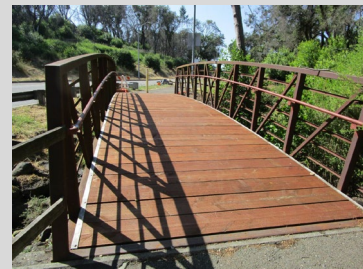
## Ross Valley Paramedic Authority Four-Year Special Parcel Tax

Town Council passed Resolution No. 2637 in a 5-0 vote calling for an election for Passage of the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority four-year Special Parcel Tax for the Tax Cycle 2027-2031 and requesting consolidation with the November 3, 2026 statewide general election.

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## Winship Bridge Replacement Project

Town Council received a status update from the Public Works Director regarding the Winship Avenue Bridge Replacement Project.



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## ADR Recruitment

Town Council authorized staff to initiate recruitment of one resident-at-large member to the Advisory Design Review (ADR) group.

## ADR Group Seeks New Member



Dear Ross Residents,

The Ross Town Council is seeking a volunteer to fill one opening on the Advisory Design Review Group (ADR) for a three-year term.

Serving on the ADR is a unique opportunity to make a positive contribution to the design and appearance of our community and help neighbors come together on development issues. The ADR Group is composed of five

volunteer Ross residents with professional design backgrounds in architecture, landscape design or other comparable fields. This group, which is advisory and not a decision-making body, meets once a month at Ross Town Hall to provide homeowners like you with community input on development plans. The meetings are currently scheduled for the third Tuesday of the month at 6 pm. In addition to the meetings, members must review project plans, staff reports and conduct site visits.

We would like to thank the current ADR members that have worked to make the ADR group a helpful forum for providing staff, applicants and the Town Council with feedback during the review process:

Mark Kruttschnitt (Chair, outgoing member), Josefa Buckingham, Mark Fritts, Stephen Sutro, and Laura Dewar

If you are interested in serving on the ADR group, please submit an application form to the Town Clerk by August 17, 2026. The application forms and more information are available on the town website homepage [www.townofrossca.gov](http://www.townofrossca.gov) and at Town Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Roberta Feliciano, Planning & Building Director, [rfeliciano@townofrossca.gov](mailto:rfeliciano@townofrossca.gov) or (415) 453-1453 x121

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## PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the June 11, 2026, Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's Council Meeting website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted on that page after adoption by the Council.

Address: 186 Prospect Avenue  
Applicant: Imprints Landscape Architecture  
Council Action: Approved  
Vote (for-against-abstain): 5-0-0

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## ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### July 2026

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

### August 2026

August 4 6:00pm - Tentative Special Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

August 13 6:00pm - Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

August 18 6:00pm - Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

### September 2026

September 7 All Day - Labor Day Holiday - Town Offices Closed

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

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

# MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Your guide to running for Ross Town Council

The following information is intended to assist residents who are considering running for Ross Town Council.



## ELECTION DATE:

Ross will conduct a Municipal Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE 2026 ELECTION:

- Two (2) Town Council Members

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE:

- U.S. Citizen
- 18 years of age or older
- Registered voter living in the Town of Ross

## GETTING STARTED EARLY:

- Review the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Campaign website at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov).
- File FPPC Form 501 Candidate Intention Statement with the Town Clerk before receiving contributions or spending your own funds.
- Open a bank account if you plan to receive contributions from others or you plan to expend personal funds totaling \$2,000 or more. All money used for campaign purposes, including the candidate's personal funds, must be deposited in the campaign bank account prior to the expenditure.
- File FPPC Form 410 Statement of Organization with the Secretary of State within 10 days of receiving \$2,000 in contributions. File a copy of Form 410 with the Town Clerk.

## CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD

The filing period begins on July 13, 2026 and ends on August 7, 2026. If an incumbent does not file by August 7, the filing period will be extended to August 12, 2026 for candidates other than the incumbents.

A Candidate Handbook, including Official Nomination Papers and Campaign Filing information, will be available by appointment only with the Town Clerk beginning July 13, 2026.

### STEP 1:

Contact the Town Clerk for an appointment July 13th through August 7th.  
(appointments available 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM)

### STEP 2:

Complete nomination papers and collect signatures.

### STEP 3:

File nomination papers with the Town Clerk.  
Deadline: August 7th 4:00 PM (may be extended to August 12th 4:00 PM).



To schedule your appointment, please call Zach Koblick de León, Town Clerk at 415-453-1453 ext. 105 or email: [zkoblickdeleon@townofrossca.gov](mailto:zkoblickdeleon@townofrossca.gov)

## JULY 4TH WAS A SUCCESS!



The Town of Ross celebrated the 250th Birthday of the United States of America with a successful 4th of July Parade, led by our Grand Marshal, Beach Kuhl, and Celebration, with strong community participation. Many groups took part in the parade, which started at 10:00 a.m., including Town Council, Ross Police and Fire, and local organizations like Cedars of Marin and Age Friendly Ross. Afterward, attendees enjoyed food from Chef Jim's BBQ, Kona Ice, and the Ross Police Officers' Association, plus live music, bounce houses, a mechanical bull, face painting, and the crowd-favorite Patriotic Pooch dog competition. This year also featured the first ever pie making contest. Thank you to all the participants, our Public Works Department, and especially the Ross Recreation Department for its months-long effort in planning and organizing the parade and celebration.



## Heart of Ross: Downtown Business Spotlight

Featuring What Makes  
Ross Unique

Ashley Morgan  
Designs

Ashley Morgan Designs is a fine jewelry atelier in Ross, California, specializing in one-of-a-kind custom jewelry that tells a deeply personal story. Founded by goldsmith Ashley Berman, the atelier transforms meaningful moments, heirlooms, and inspirations from nature into modern heirloom jewelry through exceptional craftsmanship and thoughtful design. Clients work closely with Ashley throughout the entire creative process—from inspiration and gemstone selection to sketches, CAD development, and final fabrication—creating pieces that are as meaningful as they are beautiful. In addition to bespoke commissions, the atelier offers exclusive one-of-a-kind creations that embody the same artistry, symbolism, and meticulous attention to detail. Every piece is crafted to celebrate individuality, preserve memories, and become a lasting heirloom for generations to come.

Find inspiration at [www.ashleymorgandesigns.com](http://www.ashleymorgandesigns.com)

Contact: [info@ashleymorgandesigns.com](mailto:info@ashleymorgandesigns.com)

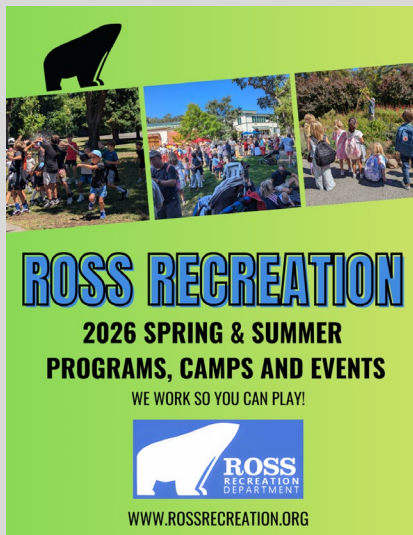
Hours: By appointment only, Monday-Friday 10am - 6pm  
23 Poplar Ave #2, Ross, CA 94957



## 2026 Community Resource Guide Now Available

The 2026 Community Resource Guide for Older Adults and Caregivers is here! This helpful guide connects residents with local services, programs, and support designed to assist older adults and those who care for them.

Pick up your free copy today at the Clerk's Office or in Town Hall during regular business hours.



### Register for Summer Camps 2026!

**Time is running out, Summer is almost over and Fall Programs start soon!**

If you have questions about registration or about any camps, contact us at  
rossrec@townofrossca.gov  
or call at 415-453-6020

### **Kinder Readiness Camp is now Big Bears and Little Bears!**

**We're looking for graduating Kindergartners graders who want to help the new Kindergartners learn the ropes**

Starting July 20th  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
at Ross Elementary

Ross Elementary's very own Ms. Gomez is leading a camp to get your incoming Kindergartners ready for school! This year we're also looking for outgoing Kindergartners/incoming First Graders who want to help mentor some of our new Ross Bears, all while in a fun, safe, and friendly environment.

July 20 - 26

Ross Recreation - Little Bears & Big Bears: K-1 Buddy Camp (Kinders)

Ross Recreation - Little Bears & Big Bears: K-1 Buddy Camp (1st Graders)

**There's even more to enjoy! Come explore all our camps by clicking the link below:**

## 2026 Fall PROGRAMS GUIDE

Registration for Fall programs, and for our Youth Winter Basketball League is NOW OPEN on our website .

**\*REMINDER - important dates:**

**Fall 1:** 8/19/26-10/16/26 (9 weeks)

-Ross School Minimum Days - October 14, 15, 16

-Ross No School / Class Days: September 7th, September 21st

-Bacich No School/Class Days: September 7th, September 21st, October 12th

**Fall 2:** 10/19/26-12/18/26 (8 weeks)

-Ross School Minimum Day - December 18th

-Ross No School/Class Days - November 11th, November 23rd- 27th

-Bacich Minimum Day - December 18th

-Bacich No School/Class Days - November 11th, November 23rd - 27th

You may go to [www.rossrecreation.org](http://www.rossrecreation.org) for all program registrations.

If you have any questions as you go through the guide, please don't hesitate to reach out.

**Team Ross Rec  
Wyatt & Mallory**  
(415) 453-6020 | [rossrec@townofrossca.gov](mailto:rossrec@townofrossca.gov)

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## CONTACT US

Police Department 415-453-1453, Opt. 2  
[raguilar@townofrossca.gov](mailto:raguilar@townofrossca.gov)

Public Works Director 415-453-1453 x115  
[rsimonitch@townofrossca.gov](mailto:rsimonitch@townofrossca.gov)

Recreation Department 415-453-6020  
[rossrec@rossrecreationca.gov](mailto:rossrec@rossrecreationca.gov)  
[wmann@rossrecreationca.gov](mailto:wmann@rossrecreationca.gov)

Town Manager 415-453-1453 x107  
[cjohnson@townofrossca.gov](mailto:cjohnson@townofrossca.gov)

Ross Valley Fire Dept 415-258-4686

Administration Office 415-453-1453 x105  
[zkoblickdeleon@townofrossca.gov](mailto:zkoblickdeleon@townofrossca.gov)

Building Department 415-453-1453 x106  
[breher@townofrossca.gov](mailto:breher@townofrossca.gov)

Bldg Inspection Hotline 415-453-1453 x170  
[mtahja@townofrossca.gov](mailto:mtahja@townofrossca.gov)

Planning/Bldg Director 415-453-1453 x121  
[rfeliciano@townofrossca.gov](mailto:rfeliciano@townofrossca.gov)

Planner 415-453-1453 x116  
[alopez-vega@townofrossca.gov](mailto:alopez-vega@townofrossca.gov)

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Marin Art and Garden Center



**Thursday Evenings**  
July 9 – August 27

**Food & Drink**  
**KidZone**

Lawn Concerts: BBQ Pop-up  
or bring a picnic

Beer, wine, and snacks at all concerts

Adults \$20 | \$25 at the gate  
Kids 17 and under FREE

Presented by  
**BANK OF AMERICA**

[maringarden.org/summerconcerts](http://maringarden.org/summerconcerts)



**Gazebo Lawn • 5:30–7:30pm (Doors open 4:30pm)**

|                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>July 9</b></p>  <p><b>Edgardo Cambon</b><br/>Salsa/Cha-Cha-Cha</p>        | <p><b>July 16</b></p>  <p><b>Haopinaka</b><br/>The Spirit of Aloha</p>       | <p><b>July 23</b></p>  <p><b>Dirty Cello</b><br/>Blues/Americana</p> |
| <p><b>July 30</b></p>  <p><b>Blackcat Zydeco</b><br/>Zydeco/Accordion Blues</p> | <p><b>August 6</b></p>  <p><b>Peter Warren-Makuru</b><br/>African Dance</p> |                                                                                                                                                         |

**Redwood Amphitheater • 5:30–6:30pm (Doors open 4:30pm)**

|                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>August 13</b></p>  <p><b>San Domenico Virtuoso/Opera</b><br/>Classical Music • Kochaviva Glaubach</p> | <p><b>August 20</b></p>  <p><b>Michelle Lambert</b><br/>Acoustic Pop/Folk</p> | <p><b>August 27</b></p>  <p><b>Teen Rock Showcase</b><br/>Featuring Red 40</p> |
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## Summer Concerts Thursdays, Marin Art & Garden Center

A range of musical genres; Blues, Zydeco, African Dance, Classical, Acoustic Rock and Teen Rock showcase. 5:30 pm, through August. BBQ, beer, wine and snacks available for purchase. Dine and dance alfresco with family and friends.



As the weather is warmer and you are outside more frequently, you may have PG&E related safety concerns. If you do, there are several ways residents / customers may report those concerns:

1. Emergency reports should be shared first by calling 911. Local dispatch will notify and coordinate with PG&E related to an gas or electric emergency.
2. For non-emergency safety concerns, the best way for residents to report: 1) Use the PG&E Report It app, 2) Use this link to report concerns online. Customers can also see other reported issues on this webpage and 3) Customers can call PG&E at 800-743-5002 to report a gas/electric safety issue.
3. Report other issues: Contact information for situations that pose no risk to life or limb

# ZERØWASTEMARIN

## Sustainable Summer Celebrations

Hosting a summer picnic, barbeque, or pool party? Here are some ways to reduce landfill waste!





Dog parks aren't right for every dog. While some dogs enjoy them, others find the noise and constant interaction stressful or unsafe. Puppies and dogs who are easily overwhelmed may be especially vulnerable. Marin Humane recommends socialization through playdates with known dogs or closely supervised groups, and encourages guardians to choose activities that match their dog's individual needs.

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**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](http://www.townofrossca.gov)**

Town Of Ross | 31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd PO Box 320 | Ross, CA 94957 US

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