

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Elizabeth Robbins, MD
Mayor

Halloween was celebrated under clear skies this year! Over two thousand people enjoyed the spectacular decorations on Shady Lane, which included an active volcano and a live hula show. Thanks go to the Ross Police for closing Shady Lane and making sure that the night was safe for all.

Ross residents continue to receive information about the flood mitigation project proposed by the County Flood Control District. The project includes three elements: removal of the fish ladder, which impedes water flow; construction of a flood wall to protect the Kentfield neighborhood near the College of Marin; and removal of the concrete walls with widening of the creek channel between the

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Council Vacancy Discussed

Councilmember Katie Hoertkorn has announced she will be resigning from her position as Town Councilmember on November 10, 2017, due to health reasons.

Councilmember Hoertkorn was elected to the Town Council in 2012, served as Mayor for two years (2015-2016), and was reappointed to office in March 2016. Her second four-term would expire in June 2020. During her tenure, she has held numerous committee/board appointments including the Ross Valley Fire District Board, Marin Energy Authority Board, Marin Art & Garden Center, Homeless Committee for Marin, Ross School Leadership Cabinet, Community Protection Committee, and has served as Chair of the Finance Committee for five years. Her work on the Finance Committee charted a path to improving and securing the Town's financial outlook. Katie has spent endless hours working to protect, preserve, and improve Ross. We wish her all the best in her recovery. She will most definitely be missed.



Katie Hoertkorn

The Town will recognize Councilmember Hoertkorn for her outstanding service at a future Council meeting once a date has been determined.

Government Code Section 36512 governs the procedure for filling a vacancy on the Town Council. The Council is authorized to fill the vacancy created by Councilmember Hoertkorn's resignation by either making an appointment or calling a special election. The Council decided to fill the vacancy term by appointment to cover the period from December 2017 through June 2018, until the next regularly scheduled Council election on June 5, 2018. The June 2018 election will consist of two Council seats with a 4-year term, plus one Council seat with a 2-year term (to complete Councilmember Hoertkorn's remaining term). The Council is taking applications from interested Ross residents for the vacant Council position. Applications are available online at <http://www.townofross.org/towncouncil>, or at Town Hall beginning November 13th. Applications are due by **December 1st**. If you have any questions about the process, please contact either Town Clerk Linda Lopez or Town Manager Joe Chinn. The Council will hold a special Council meeting on Wednesday, December 6th to interview and select a candidate to fill the six-month Council vacancy.

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Post Office and the tennis courts. This would involve moving the creek bed east, closer to the houses on Sir Francis Drake Blvd, and moving the bike path west toward Poplar Avenue. Most of the existing trees and vegetation along the creek sides and bike path would be removed during the excavation to create the new creek bed. Following construction, the area would be re-landscaped with trees and shrubs to restore a park-like appearance. There will be a walk-through of the project area on Saturday November 18 from 10am-noon starting at the post office. A Town Council decision about whether to proceed with the project is expected in December.



Halloween Trick or Treaters

The recent fires north of Marin remind us of the importance of being prepared for any disaster. Get Ready Marin (<https://readymarin.org/>) warns that in the event of a disaster you could be on your own for 5-7 days. Join other Ross residents for a one and a half hour information session to learn ways to be prepared and protect your family. The training session, presented by Get Ready Marin, will be held at Town Hall on Saturday December 2nd from 10-11:30 am. All are welcome.

Finally, we are sorry to announce that Katie Hoertkorn is resigning from her position as Town Councilmember effective November 10th due to health reasons. Katie has served on the Council since 2012, and has been instrumental in a number of important issues, including improving the town's financial standing. Council members and town staff will truly miss working with her, and we wish her the best. ■

Ross Valley Fire Chief Recruitment



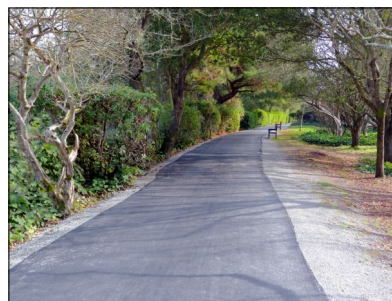
With the retirement of Ross Valley Fire Department (RVFD) Chief Mark Mills, former retired Fire Chief Roger Meagor has returned to serve as Acting Fire Chief until the position is filled. Chief Meagor

served the RVFD from 1979 until his retirement in December 2013. He held every rank in the department from Firefighter, Captain, Battalion Chief to becoming Fire Chief in 2005. Welcome back Roger!

The Ross Valley Fire JPA Board (which consists of eight members including Councilmembers Elizabeth Brekhus and Beach Kuhl) is exploring the best way to provide Fire Chief services into the future. Options include hiring a new fire chief or contracting for fire chief and potentially sharing other fire department services with other local fire departments such as Marin County Fire Department and the Kentfield Fire District. The goal is to most effectively provide Department leadership and services to the community and fire department staff in a cost efficient way. The RVFD Board had a workshop on the topic November 8th. There will be more to come over the coming months on this topic.

Frederick Allen Park Flood Control Project Site Tour

Interested community members are invited to a site tour to learn more about the proposed Frederick Allen Park Flood Control Project on Saturday, November 18th, from 10-12 noon. The site tour is sponsored by the Marin County Flood Control District and the Town of Ross.



The goal of the meeting is to hear and address questions and concerns and discuss next steps. This is one of the proposed features of the larger Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project.

Allen Park Talk & Site Tour Details:

Saturday, November 18, 2017
10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Join anytime during the scheduled time at the Ross Post Office for an overview, then small groups will be taken down the path to Frederick Allen Park.

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the November Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [November 9th meeting page](#). The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the December 14th Council meeting.

Address: 51 Loma Linda Avenue

Applicant: John & Lulita Reed

Council Action: Approved

Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-2 (Brekhus, Hoertkorn absent)

Halloween Memories

The trick or treaters were out in full force on Shady Lane Halloween night in Ross. Enjoy photos courtesy of Heidi Scoble.



Disaster Preparedness - *Are You Ready?*



In the wake of the devastating fires that ravaged northern California, we are reminded once again how critical it is to be prepared for any kind of emergency whether it be fire, earthquake, or flooding.

Marin County was spared from the major fires but we should be cognizant that what happened in Napa and Sonoma Counties could easily happen in Marin. Our hearts go out to all who were affected by the fires.



The best defense for an emergency is for you and your family to be as prepared as possible. Here are some suggestions to help you prepare for an emergency:

- **Defensible Space.** Defensible space is the buffer you create between your home and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surrounds it, and is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. The Ross Valley Fire Department website provides important information on this at <http://rossvalleyfire.org/prevention/defensible-space>. Another good resource is FIREsafe Marin website at firesafemarin.org/preparedness.
- **Get Ready Marin.** Their website at <https://readymarin.org/> provides useful information for everyone (including children, seniors, pets, businesses). They also offer Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training classes during the year. CERT training is a program that trains citizens to help fill the gap between a disaster and the arrival of professional services. The remaining CERT classes this year are full but it's possible more will be scheduled early next year. Contact Maggie Lang at coordinator@marincountycert.org to reserve a spot for a future CERT class.

A Get Ready class is scheduled **Saturday, December 2nd, 10-11:30 a.m. at Ross Town Hall**. The class is free and taught by a Get Ready professional. The class covers how to stay safe, before, during, and after a disaster. Pre-registration by November 30th is encouraged. RSVP to Linda Lopez at llopez@townofross.org.

- **AlertMarin Emergency Notifications.** Sign up to receive emergency notifications by phone, text and email. Register at <https://www.marinsheriff.org/services/emergency-services/alert-marin>.

ONCE UPON A TIME....

(The following was written by The Moya Library-Ross Historical Society for this newsletter.)

Everyday Heroes Fight Fires in Ross

The recent fires in Sonoma and Napa remind us that such disasters are a perennial concern here as well. Our terrain and climate demand vigilance and preparation. In the early history of Ross, citizens were often called upon to protect their own lives and property.

In one instance, a 1909 San Francisco Chronicle headline was "Society Women in Autos Fight Fire". An odd title, but the story details the quick action of several Ross ladies, including Mesdames Armsby, Barber, Coffin, Griffith and Hale. More than bystanders, they brought what they could to help fight a house fire at Lagunitas Road and Glenwood until local fire departments arrived. The Chief praised the locals for helping avoid a larger disaster. In addition to fighting fire, the ladies followed their heroics by serving refreshments to the thankful firemen.



A 1914 fire destroyed several buildings in the Ross Common business district. Along with the valiant firefighters, the people of Ross did their part, with about three hundred residents helping to fight the flames. The brave volunteers included Allen Kittle and E. G. Schmiedell, both original Town Trustees. Once again, after the fire was subdued, citizens served hot coffee and sandwiches.

In 1929, a fire destroyed many homes in Mill Valley, just over the ridge from Ross. According to Roger Kent, he, his brothers, Upper Road resident Ben Dibblee and some Italian workers sprang into action. Working for hours, they set backfires to stop the inferno from further advance. They barely escaped burns themselves, but succeeded in keeping the fire at bay.

(Go to <http://www.townofross.org/community/page/look-back-historical-articles-ross> to continue reading the rest of the article on the Town's website.)

RECREATION NEWS



The Ross Recreation youth soccer program will conduct the final games of the Fall season on Saturday, December 2nd at the Ross Common fields. Ross Common fields will be closed from Monday, December 18th through Friday, March 8th for annual maintenance. The fields will reopen on Saturday, March 9th.

The hip hop dance students celebrated Halloween in style last week by attending class in costume. The students will be holding a performance during their final class on Tuesday November 28 in the Ross gym.



Winter program registration is open.
Register at: rossrecreation.org.



The Ross School Book Fair will be **November 13-17, 8:30-3:30** in the Ross School gym. It's a book store in your backyard! There will be hundreds of titles for readers of all ages and levels on hand to purchase! It's a fantastic place to buy holiday gifts or simply enhance your own library! There will be something for everyone and everyone is welcome!

Additionally, we are welcoming Julie Lythcott-Haims for this year's author's tea on Thursday, November 16th at 8:30 am in the Ross School gym. Julie Lythcott-Haims is the New York Times Bestselling author of "How to Raise an Adult and Real American: A Memoir". She will be on hand to discuss her newest book. Please join us in welcoming her! Books and tickets are available on line at <http://rossbearspto.com/Author-Coffee/>.

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2017

Nov 6	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 9	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 10	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Veterans Day
Nov 14-17	8:30-3:30	pm	Ross School Friends of the Library Book Fair, Ross School Gym (<i>see page 4</i>)
Nov 18	10:00	am	Flood Control Project Community Site Visit, Meet at Post Office
Nov 23-24	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday
Nov 28	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

DECEMBER 2017

Dec 6	5:00	pm	Special Council Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 10	4:30	pm	Winter Sing Tree Lighting Ceremony, Ross Common
Dec 11	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 14	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 19	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Dec 25-29	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Christmas holiday

JANUARY 2018 - Happy New Year!

Jan 1	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for New Year's Day
Jan 8	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 11	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Jan 15	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 23	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

CONTACT US

Administration	415.453.1453 x105	Public Works Director	415.453.1453 x115
Building & Public Works	415.453.1453 x106	Recreation	415.453.6020
Planning	415.453.1453 x121	Ross Valley Fire	415.258.4686
Police	415.453.1453, Option 2	Town Manager	415.453.1453 x107

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Visit us at www.townofross.org



We welcome
 suggestions for future
 issues. Email
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