

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner

This month we are holding our regular Council meeting on the first Thursday of the month, rather than the second Thursday, our usual meeting time, to accommodate travel and other plans for the upcoming school Spring Recesses.

At the March Council meeting, we heard presentations by Dan Mahoney, Chief of the Ross Valley Fire Department, Jason Weber, Chief of the Marin County Fire Department and Executive Officer of the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority, and Mark Brown, Executive Officer of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority, relating to the closing of the Ross Fire station in July,

After over 100 years of having its own volunteer and then independent fire department, Ross joined the Ross Valley Fire Department (RVFD) in 2012, at which point the RVFD took over staffing and management of the Ross fire station. A little over four years ago, and after a series of council meetings and extensive community outreach, which included a town hall and community survey, the Council made the difficult decision not to reconstruct the fire station as part of addressing the Town's obsolete and dilapidated public safety facilities.

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MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Ross community as your Fire Chief. As one of four members of the Ross Valley Fire Dept (RVFD), Ross is also the long-time location of Medic 18 (paramedic ambulance) operated by the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority (RVPA).

On March 13th, I presented to the Ross Town Council regarding fire and emergency medical services in Ross. RVPA Chief Exec. Officer/Marin County Fire Chief Jason Weber and Mark Brown, Chief Exec. Officer of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority, served as my co-presenters. You can find the presentations and a link to the video on the townofrossca.gov website. Here are some main points:

- After several years of analysis, community engagement, and deliberations, in 2021 the Ross Council voted unanimously to close its fire station (effective July 2025) and include a paramedic quarters in their Master Facilities Plan. Both RVFD and RVPA will continue to ensure that Ross residents and homes remain safe.
- Since 2021, several improvements have been made to the provision of fire and emergency medical services in our area:
- Starting July 1, 2025 RVFD has increased firefighter staffing at its three stations to send more resources to every incident.
- A new county-wide centralized fire dispatch center is in the process of implementing a closest resource dispatch method for critical calls by sending the nearest available fire engine and paramedic unit to these incidents.
- Marin Fire Agencies have mutual aid agreements enabling a full response of the 35 engines and 13 ambulances from all agencies available to support any incident in the County.
- On March 16, 2025 five fire agencies responded quickly to a garage fire in Ross. All agencies worked collaboratively to extinguish the fire and limit fire damage to only the garage. Agencies involved were: Ross Valley Fire, Kentfield, Central Marin, San Rafael, and Marin County Fire.
- Marin fire departments prepare for and respond to wildfires on a regional basis. Since 2020, the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority has made Marin safer and more prepared for wildfires, investing more than \$20 million a year countywide.

Rest assured that your fire department's mission is to keep its residents safe. I look forward to continuing our partnership with the RVPA and all Marin County fire agencies, ensuring we continue to provide the best possible service to all of our residents.

Subsequently, after a series of discussions and negotiations, Ross and the other members of the RVFD (Fairfax, San Anselmo, and Sleepy Hollow), reached agreement on a plan to relocate the firefighters stationed in Ross to other nearby stations in San Anselmo and Fairfax. The joint powers agreement for the Ross Valley Fire Department was amended in January 2022 to provide for this change and transition, with the closing of the Ross station by July 1, 2025.

The presentations at the Council's March meeting provided an opportunity for the Council and Ross residents to hear from the heads of the relevant public safety agencies about the steps taken to prepare for and implement the upcoming transition and relocation of personnel and equipment from the Ross station. It was also an opportunity for the Council and Ross residents to receive updates and clarification about issues related to the closing and what we can expect going forward.

The Council meeting was well attended with many participating in person in the Town Hall and others participating via Zoom. I want to express the Council's appreciation to everyone who participated and to all those who provided written comments. For those who were not able to hear the presentations, a recording of the meeting is available for viewing on the Town's website or [here](#).

The Council will meet again for its annual Budget Workshop on April 24, where we will consider the budget for the upcoming 2025-26 fiscal year. Public participation is welcome. We'll finish up the month with a Live on the Common get together on April 25, and I hope to see you there.

~~Mayor Bill Kircher



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! →



Welcome New Senior Accountant Susanna Zuniga-McGuire

For over 20 years, Susanna Zuniga-McGuire has led a rewarding career as an accountant for local non-profit organizations. Through her work, she has made contributions to organizations that are making or have made a significant impact in local communities. Before joining the Town of Ross as Senior Accountant, Susanna served as the Assistant Controller for the Buck Institute for Research on Aging where her work supported accurate and timely financial reporting. Prior to that she held Managerial Accounting roles with 10,000 Degrees, Bay Area Community Resources, and the Marin AIDS Project. She has specialized in accounting practices that have ensured compliance, transparency and accountability.

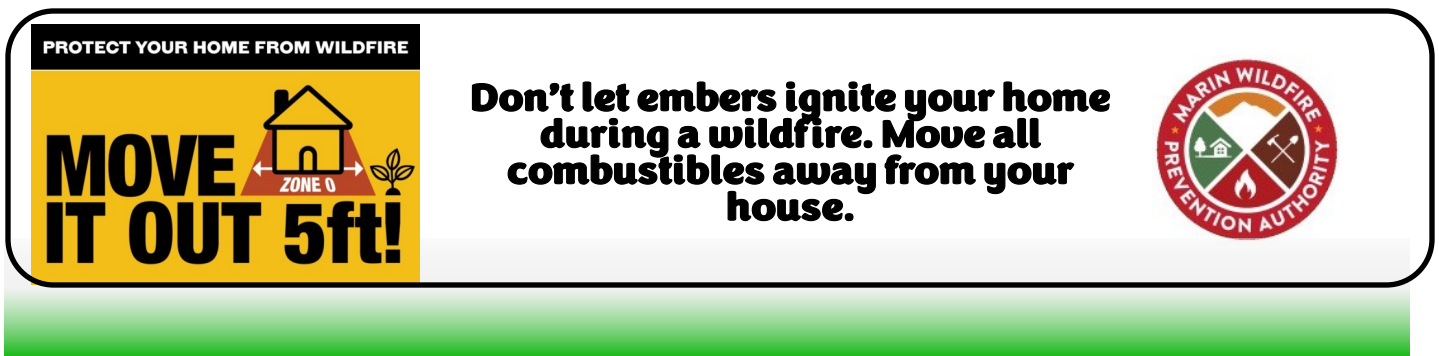
Susanna holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from Sonoma State University. She has lived in Fairfax, CA with her family for over 25 years. When not working, she enjoys spending time with family, hiking, birding, reading, puzzles, and visiting National Parks.



The 2025 season of Marin Wildfire's Chipper Program is currently open for early signups! Please visit <https://www.chipperday.com/marin> and enter your address in the search bar to view and sign up for upcoming events in your area.

The Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority is proud to sponsor the Chipping Program! The program provides for the curbside pickup, chipping, and disposal of vegetation material from residential properties.

Make a reservation to secure your pickup. It is encouraged that you secure your reservation **PRIOR TO** constructing your pile. Signups must be made **NO LATER THAN** the Friday before an upcoming event to guarantee a spot on the pickup list.



PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the April 3, 2025 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's April 3 website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted on this page after adoption by the Council.

Address: 47 Poplar Avenue

Applicant: Mark Manning

Council Action: Approved

Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Dowling Recused)

Address: 78 Shady Lane

Applicant: Leslie Jones

Council Action: Approved

Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0



LIVE
Friday Apr. 25
5 - 8 PM
ON
THE
COMMON

The Illegals Band
Plus: Tony Tuttos Pizza, Hop Monk Food Truck, Riley's Food Truck, 6 Oz Wine Bar, Crown & Crumpet Desserts, AndrewsCamps

 www.rosspropertyowners.com/events



Fire-Smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners



April Fire-smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners April: Mulch With Wildfire in Mind

Mulch is any material spread over soil to retain moisture, suppress weeds, and prevent erosion. For fire safety, inorganic mulches such as rock are a non-combustible option that can be used anywhere in your landscape. Organic mulch is composed of plant materials and is combustible, but also provides many ecological advantages.

Zone 0 (0-5 feet from structures)

Use only non-combustible mulch like stone, gravel, or decomposed granite in this critical area around your house and wooden structures. These materials reduce the risk of ember ignition, offering extra protection for your home.

Zone 1 (5-30 feet)

Combustible mulches such as composted wood chips, are allowed in this Zone, but follow these guidelines:

- Keep combustible mulch depth to 3 inches or less
- Create fuel breaks by dividing areas of combustible mulch and plant groupings with non-combustible mulch or hard-scaping

Zone 2 (30-100 feet)

Larger wood chips or bark nuggets (composted or non-composted) work well in this area up to 3 inches in depth.

Materials to Avoid

Do not use hazardous mulches like shredded western red cedar ("gorilla hair"), pine needles, or rubber. Avoid any fine, stringy mulch materials, as they ignite easily and burn faster than larger wood chips.

For more information about Fire Smart Gardening, Marin garden advice and events, or to reach out with garden questions, visit us at marinmg.ucanr.edu



Earth Month

APRIL 2025

go
zero
waste



5 ZERO WASTE TIPS TO HELP THE EARTH

- 1. Skip Single-Use Plastics:** Prevent microplastic pollution and landfill waste by keeping a reusable water bottle, coffee mug, and set of utensils with you when you're on the go. Say no to plastic bags and bring your own reusable bag when shopping.
- 2. Compost Your Food Scraps:** Composting is a simple way to reduce waste and give food scraps a new life as a nutrient-rich soil additive. Make sure all of your food scraps, yard waste, and paper towels go into your green curbside compost bin. (*Don't have a green compost bin? [It's the law](#) to have access to one at your home, apartment, or business!*)
- 3. Shop Secondhand:** From clothing to furniture to electronics, buying used helps keep items out of landfills and reduces demand for new products, which saves energy, resources, and emissions from production. Check out local thrift stores, vintage shops, or online secondhand marketplaces.
- 4. Repair Before You Replace:** Whether it's mending a piece of clothing, fixing a small appliance, or patching up a piece of furniture, choosing to repair keeps useful materials out of the landfill. Learn basic repair skills like sewing buttons, patching clothes, or fixing small appliances. Zero Waste Marin will be hosting repair fairs throughout Marin County in 2025 — check out the upcoming events: <https://zerowastemarin.org/2025-repair-fairs/>!
- 5. Buy in Bulk:** Buying in bulk allows you to avoid excessive packaging and minimize the amount of single-use plastic waste. Look for bulk refill stations for items like laundry detergent, soap, and cleaning supplies. (*Check out a list of refill options in Marin here: <https://zerowastemarin.org/zero-waste-at-home/>*).

DAYLIGHTING—IT'S THE LAW!

California's daylighting law (AB 413) prohibits stopping or parking within 20 feet of a crosswalk. This law applies to all intersections, including marked and unmarked crosswalks. The law also applies to crosswalks with curb extensions, where the prohibited distance is 15 feet. Ross PD started warning residents on January 1, 2025 and will be issuing *warning* citations until May 1, 2025.

**Citations will be issued after
May 1, 2025.**

Please contact Ross PD:
415.453.1453, option 2 with
questions.

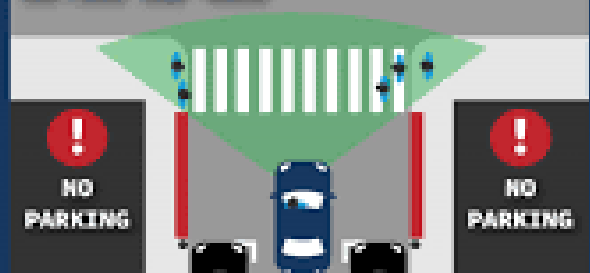


WHAT IS DAYLIGHTING?

BEFORE AB 413



AFTER AB 413



STREETS FOR ALL

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



April 2025

Apr 15	6:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Apr 19	10:00	am	Spring Fling (Ross Common)
Apr 24	9:00	am	Special Meeting Annual Budget Workshop (Town Hall & Zoom)
Apr 25	5:00	pm	Live on the Common

May 2025

May 5	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
May 8	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
May 20	6:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
May 26	All day		Memorial Day Holiday—Town Administrative Offices Closed
May 30	4:30	pm	Kid's Live on the common

June 2025

June 4	10:00	am	Age Friendly: Water Recycling (Crown & Crummet)
June 9	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
June 12	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
June 17	6:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
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)

CONTACT US

Administration Office 415-453-1453 x105
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Building Department 415-453-1453 x106
- breher@townofrossca.gov

Bldg Inspection Hotline 415-453-1453 x170
- erobbe@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

Ross Valley Fire Dept 415-258-4686
Town Manager 415-453-1453 x107
- cjohnson@townofrossca.gov

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Visit us at www.townofrossca.gov



We welcome suggestions for
future issues. Email
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