

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

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### Mayor's Corner



Mayor Elizabeth Brekhus

I am sure that you have read about the terrible fire tragedy on Maui and thought about how well our community is prepared for a fire and for evacuation. It is super important that every resident is signed up for AlertMarin to receive notifications for emergencies.

While the Town of Ross has an emergency siren, its main purpose is to alert residents of potential flooding and the siren cannot be heard throughout the entire Town. To receive emergency notifications please sign up for these free services: Alert Marin, Marin County Office of Emergency Management, Register at: <https://emergency.marincounty.org/pages/alertmarin>; and to Nixle register by texting your zip code to 888-777. Registering with Alert Marin and Nixle will ensure that emergency response and evacuation information is sent directly to your cellphone and is tailored to the type of emergency underway.

Please also consider getting involved in fire readiness organizations includ- *Continued on Page 2*



### PREPARING AND RESPONDING TO WILDFIRES AND OTHER DISASTERS

*An Age Friendly Breakfast Gathering for Ross Residents*

Wednesday, Sept 13th 9:30am - 11:30am Cedars

Join **Age Friendly Ross** for a gathering on Wednesday, September 13th from 9:30-11:30am at Cedars Ross Residences at 115 Upper Road in Ross. Ross Valley Fire Department, Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority, Fire Safe Marin, Marin Center for Independent Living, and Cedars will present information on how to prepare for wildfires and other disasters. Cedars is hosting the event and light breakfast will be provided.

Space is limited so please **RSVP by Sept 5th** to Maureen Borthwick, Recreation Manager, at [agefriendly@townofross.org](mailto:agefriendly@townofross.org) or (415) 453-6020.

Limited parking is available at 115 Upper Road. Additional parking is available at 2 Kensington Rd in San Anselmo, with shuttles provided.



AGE-FRIENDLY ROSS

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 Jennifer Hall

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### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 AT 11 AM STATE OF THE TOWN OF ROSS Livermore Pavilion at MAGC

Ross Mayor Elizabeth Brekhus describes how the duties of the Mayor and Councilmembers have changed over the years.

Town Manager Christa Johnson will highlight recent accomplishments and challenges ahead.

A luncheon will follow. Tickets are \$55 per person. Register at: [www.moya-rhs.org](http://www.moya-rhs.org).

Call Ruth Barton for more info: 415.461.1972

ing Firewise or becoming a Neighborhood Block Captain. Please go to Fire Safe Marin at firesafemarin.org if you want more information about joining an existing Firewise neighborhood group (Ross has two Firewise groups: one on Woodhaven; the other in Winship Park) or starting a new one in your neighborhood. Information about hardening your home, defensible space and vegetation management to prepare for wildfires and other valuable information is also available at Firesafemarin.org and at the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority at marinwildfire.org.

For those of you who do not have the Ross School calendar handy, the start of school was Tuesday, August 22nd. Ross Back to School Night will be held on September 7<sup>th</sup>. The Ross School PTO is holding a mixer for Ross School parents only that evening on the Ross Common. You can buy tickets at <https://www.rossbearspto.com/>. If you're feeling left out of that event, don't worry, the Town Dinner is set for September 22, 2023, and everyone in Town is invited! In an effort to be as inclusive as possible, we will host a community table that is open to residents who wish to sit with other members of the community and meet each other. This is of course the whole point of the Town Dinner, and we hope that many people will take advantage of this. Council members will be sitting at this community table in an effort to meet as many people in the community as possible. We hope to see all of you there at this Town tradition.

I'm sure many of you have been observing the work on Laurel Grove which consists of a sidewalk installation on the east side of the street. Some people have asked me why the sidewalk does not continue all the way down Laurel Grove. The short answer is it has to do with expense and also the ability of the street as built to accommodate a sidewalk. It doesn't mean that a sidewalk will not happen in the future, but it will take some additional funding and engineering strategies.

Other events going on around town include the Ross Historical Society luncheon event at which I will be speaking on September 7, 2023, at MAGC. In keeping with the subject matter of the group I will try and weave in some discussion about council members' duties past and present. And for that I will be tapping my father, Peter Brekhus, who served as mayor for 16 years to review Town Council duties from years past.

As always if you have any questions or concerns about the Town please let me know. ~~Mayor Elizabeth Brekhus

## Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Hybrid Information Session



During the pandemic, when CERT training could not be in person, a hybrid CERT program was developed, combining online learning with a one-day in-person skills training session.

On **August 30th, 6pm**, an information session will be hosted on Zoom to launch the hybrid training version of CERT. Learn more about CERT on



[ReadyMarin's CERT page.](#)

[Register here](#)

**FREE ONLINE**  
**CLIMATE ACTION WORKSHOPS**

LEARN TO LIVE LIGHTLY ON THE EARTH & CREATE A HEALTHY, LOW-IMPACT HOME

**Wednesday Team:**  
**STARTS SEPT 13**

**Thursday Team:**  
**STARTS SEPT 21**

[www.readymarin.org](http://www.readymarin.org)

**RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOODS**

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

[ResilientNeighborhoods.org](http://ResilientNeighborhoods.org)

**TEEN CERT**

Are you a High School student interested in disaster preparedness?

Through Teen CERT training, you can serve your community in a disaster and help take care of your family and neighbors. There is no requirement after completing the training to respond in a disaster. Your skills are useful at home with your family and those close to

To find out more about classes in your High School, please email [info@readymarin.org](mailto:info@readymarin.org).

## PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the August 24, 2023 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's August 24 website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council.

**Address: 205 Lagunitas Road**  
**Applicant: Lagunitas Country Club**  
**Council Action: Approved**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-1 (Kuhl recused)**

**Address: 2 Crest Road**  
**Applicant: Benjamin & Laura Dewar**  
**Council Action: Continued**

**Address: 10 Shady Lane**  
**Applicant: Courtney Kronenthal**  
**Council Action: Approved with amendments**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-0**

**Address: 39 Allen Avenue**  
**Applicant: Matthew & Lauren Barshied**  
**Council Action: Approved with conditions**  
**Vote (for/against/abstain): 3-0-1 (Kuhl recused)**



Officer Paul Stromoski

### Recognizing Paul Stromoski, 20 years with the Town of Ross

Paul grew up in LA and joined the U.S. Army two weeks after high school graduation. He was stationed in Germany for four years, and after discharge, returned to Germany to live and work. He returned to CA to attend UC Davis, graduating with a B.A. degree in foreign language and linguistics.

While working in Sonoma in the international wine trade full-time, Paul worked part-time for CA State Parks and became a CA State Park Ranger after completing CA peace officer training. He worked at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. He transferred to the Town of Ross Police Dept after four years, when his wife Anna's career brought them to the Bay Area.

Paul started at the Ross Police Dept in August 2003 and has worked for the Town of Ross and its community for 20 years. Anna and he started a family back in 2011 and now have an 11-year-old daughter and 9-year-old twins. It is of this wonderful family that he is most proud. He is very happy working for the Town of Ross as a community-oriented police officer, performing his duties for its citizens with excellence in safety and service.

## Fire-Smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners

### SEPTEMBER: Maintaining a Fire-smart Landscape

- ◆ Continuously clear dead leaves, branches, and debris from around your home, especially from your roof and gutters.
- ◆ Maintain a clearance of 10 feet between tree limbs and your chimney, and 5 feet from the rest of the home.
- ◆ Regularly prune trees and shrubs to remove dead branches and increase space in tree canopies to reduce flammable fuel.
- ◆ Remove low-hanging branches from trees to create space between lower vegetation to reduce the risk of fire ladders.
- ◆ Keep vegetation from overhanging or touching power lines.
- ◆ Remove any dead vegetation and dry grasses from the landscape to reduce potential fuel.
- ◆ Regularly inspect plants for drought stress and water appropriately to keep plants healthy.



**FOR MORE FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPING INFORMATION VISIT UC MARIN MASTER GARDENER WEBSITE: <https://ucanr.edu/ucmarinmgfiresmart> & <http://ucanr.edu/ucmarinmgirrigation>**

## Annual Ross Creek Walk & Cleanup Day

**Saturday, September 9, 2023, 9am-noon**  
**Meet in front of the Ross Post Office.**

Everyone is welcome to attend (kids 12 and under are welcome to come along if supervised by an adult), and Town staff will be on hand to answer questions about flooding, erosion, trees, and the maintenance responsibilities of Ross property owners. This is a great opportunity for outdoor family fun and perhaps an opportunity to earn credit toward a scout merit badge for participating in a conservation related project.

See more information [here](#).





## MMWD Truck Traffic Starting 9/5/23

MMWD made a presentation to the Ross Town Council on 8/24/23 about their upcoming truck hauling project through the Town of Ross beginning on September 5<sup>th</sup> and continuing every weekday through October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Twenty to thirty trucks a day will be hauling dirt from MMWD's Pine Mountain Tunnel Tanks Project through Ross, from Natalie Coffin Greene Park, down Lagunitas Road to Sir Francis Drake Blvd, then down Sir Francis Drake Blvd toward Highway 101.

The Town has coordinated the truck activity with MMWD so that conflicts with Ross School and Preschool drop off and pick up will be minimized. For more information on the project, visit MMWD's project website [here](#).



# ROSS RECREATION FALL FUN

REGISTER TODAY AT [ROSSRECREATION.ORG](http://ROSSRECREATION.ORG) / (415) 453-6020

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Kids Club Afterschool
- Father Daughter Dance!
- New Schafer Games at Ross
- Hip Hop with Chelsea
- Vocals Class
- Amazing Art for Kids
- Ukulele at Ross
- Lacrosse w/ Jean Marc
- Soccer League
- Basketball League
- Early Release Sandrick Sports
- TGA Golf
- Off the Block S.T.E.M. w/ LEGO
- Academic Chess
- AND MORE!

## ADULT PROGRAMS

- Tennis classes
- Pickleball clinics
- Ross Round Robin Pickleball tournament, 9/17
- Stretch and strengthen w/ Megan Scott!
- Wreath making classes
- Technology4Life classes for Seniors
- Meet new friends at the Age Friendly social gathering
- AND MORE!

DON'T FORGET TO BUY YOUR TICKET FOR THE  
ROSS TOWN DINNER ON FRIDAY, 9/22!

## WILDLIFE IN OUR OWN BACKYARD!!

At the recent Bald Hill plaque dedication ceremony, Julie McMillan encouraged Rene Voss to share a short wildlife video with the Ross Town Council, which highlighted some of the iconic wildlife in the heart of Ross. The wildlife camera was placed for 10 days on Upper Toyon Ridge.

Rene Voss is a Natural Resources Attorney and Executive Director of the Western Alliance for Nature (WAN). He manages the Upper Toyon Ridge Nature Preserve, which is a northern spotted owl sanctuary, owned and held in trust by WAN. WAN considers its lands to be held in trust for public benefit; and education about conservation is part of it's mission. For more information about this important wildlife preserve right here in Ross, click [here](#).

Enjoy: <https://youtu.be/7z0z4YuP2R4>





# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## August 2023

August 25 4:30 pm Live on the Common

## SEPTEMBER 2023

Sept 4 All Day Town Hall Administrative Offices Closed (Labor Day)  
 Sept 7 11:00 am State of the Town of Ross (Livermore Pavilion at MAGC)  
 Sept 7 6:00 pm Back to School Night Mixer (Ross Common)  
 Sept 9 9:00 am Annual Ross Creek Cleanup Day (meet in front of Post Office)  
 Sept 11 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)  
 Sept 13 9:30 am Age Friendly Ross Preparing & Responding to Wildfires & Other Disasters (Cedars Ross Residences)  
 Sept 14 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)  
 Sept 19 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)  
 Sept 20 5:30 pm Ross Firewise Luncheon (MAGC)  
 Sept 22 5:30 pm Ross Town Dinner (Ross Common)

## OCTOBER 2023

Oct 9 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall  
 Oct 12 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)  
 Oct 14 2:30 pm Live on the Common  
 Oct 17 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

## CONTACT US

Administration Office	415-453-1453 x105	Police Department	415-453-1453, Opt. 2
- <a href="mailto:cmartel@townofross.org">cmartel@townofross.org</a>		- <a href="mailto:rpata@townofross.org">rpata@townofross.org</a>	
Building Department	415-453-1453 x106	Public Works Director	415-453-1453 x115
- <a href="mailto:breher@townofross.org">breher@townofross.org</a>		- <a href="mailto:rsimonitch@townofross.org">rsimonitch@townofross.org</a>	
Bldg Inspection Hotline	415-453-1453 x170	Recreation Department	415-453-6020
- <a href="mailto:erobbe@townofross.org">erobbe@townofross.org</a>		- <a href="mailto:rossrec@rossrecreation.org">rossrec@rossrecreation.org</a>	
Planning/Bldg Interim Dir	415-453-1453 x121	Ross Valley Fire Dept	415-258-4686
- <a href="mailto:dwoltering@townofross.org">dwoltering@townofross.org</a>		Town Manager	415-453-1453 x107
Planner	415-453-1453 x116	- <a href="mailto:cjohnson@townofross.org">cjohnson@townofross.org</a>	
- <a href="mailto:alopez-vega@townofross.org">alopez-vega@townofross.org</a>			

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Visit us at [www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org)



We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email [cmartel@townofross.org](mailto:cmartel@townofross.org)

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