

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Mayor P. Beach Kuhl

Among the many changes occasioned several years ago in our lives by the Covid pandemic was the discontinuance of public meetings because of the fear of spreading disease at public gatherings, the California legislature passed AB361, which eased the existing Brown Act's requirements that governmental bodies conduct all their business in person and for several years many entities have conducted their meetings strictly by Zoom. The Ross Town Council resumed public meetings a year ago while retaining the capability for the public to participate remotely.

The Governor's declared Covid emergency, which loosened many of the requirements to hold meetings publicly during the pandemic, and permitted remote electronic meetings, expires on February 28. No longer will totally remote meetings, such as some local governments have been holding, be possible. Entities such as the Transportation Authority of Marin and the Ross Valley Fire Department, of which Ross is a member, will be required to have a majority of the members of their governing body present in person to conduct meetings. If a majority of the members are present, individual members who provide good reason for

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Ross Fire Training

The Ross Valley Fire Department will be conducting training at 2 De Witt Drive next week on Monday 2/13, Tuesday 2/14, and Thursday 2/16 from 9am-4pm. You may see *training* smoke in the area. Please do not call 911 unless you have an emergency.

Ross Facilities Master Plan

The Town of Ross is moving forward with the preparation of a Facilities Master Plan for the Town's municipal facilities and emergency services, which include both police and paramedic services. These facilities presently include Ross Town Hall, a Ross Public Safety Building, a Public Works Building, and a portable building immediately adjacent to Town Hall.

On October 13, 2022, the Town Council approved a Consultant Services Agreement with The KPA Group. At the February Town Council meeting the KPA Group presented a progress



report which included three options for the Council to discuss. The options include keeping the Town Hall and constructing new buildings to modernize and expand each building as required to meet programmatic needs and adequately house all Town municipal and emergency service functions.

In the Spring there will be a public workshop for the residents of Ross to provide input on the Master Facilities Plan. This is a very exciting time and project for the Town of Ross.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Markwick, Planning and Building Director:
rmarkwick@townofross.org 415-453-1453 ext. 121.

attending remotely will be allowed to do so.

Not much will change for the Ross Town Council, which has been meeting in person and by zoom since early last year. Ross residents will be able to register their views by Zoom, by attending and speaking in person at a council meeting or by sending an email to our Town Clerk, Cyndie Martel, before 4 pm on the day before our meeting, so that it will be read aloud at the meeting. In my judgment, the most effective way to express an opinion continues to be to do it in person at a Town Council meeting or by speaking by phone or in person to a Council member.

Last week, as I made my daily visit to my post office box, I glanced up and saw a surveillance camera mounted on a corner of the wall in the lobby. As a result of the installation of the cameras by the Ross Property Owners Association, the post office lobby is once again open and the post office boxes accessible 24 hours a day. The RPOA has also recently installed a table in the lobby and mounted beautiful photographs from around Ross that now adorn it.

It is becoming apparent, if it wasn't before, that the RPOA has the flexibility to respond quickly to all sorts of needs around town as well as continuing its ongoing role in putting on events on the Common, at holidays and providing flower baskets in the downtown area. Perhaps it's time to think about doubling our contributions to this group to find out what more they can do for our community if we give them more to work with.

~~Mayor P. Beach Kuhl ■



LAFCo Applications Being Accepted

Applications now being accepted for both LAFCo Public Member Seats.

On May 1, 2023, Marin Local Agency Formation Commission Public Member's term is set to expire. The Commission will be selecting appointments for new four-year terms for both the Regular Public Member Seat and Alternate Public Member Seat.

Applications are now being accepted and any person wishing to apply for these positions may get an application by going to www.marinlafco.org, calling 415.448.5877, or sending an email to staff@marinlafco.org.



Welcome to Ben Rubio: New Ross Police Officer



Officer Ben Rubio

The Town of Ross is pleased to welcome Ben Rubio who is the first officer to be hired at Ross Police in 3 years.

Ben comes from a law enforcement background with his mother serving as a judge in Sacramento County, his aunt as a police sergeant for Vacaville Police and his uncle as the elected sheriff for Tehama County and now is Mayor of Red Bluff.

Ben attended community college in Aptos, and transferred to San Francisco State University to study engineering and industrial design. He moved to Marin during that time and fell in love with the area. Particularly the trail running around Phoenix Lake.

Ben and his girlfriend Courtney currently live in Solano County. Courtney is a chef at Skywalker Ranch. They have 2 dogs and 2 chickens!

Ben's hobbies include Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, trail running, gardening, cooking, motorcycles, cars, his dogs and spending time with friends and family.

PLANNING RESULTS

There were no planning applications for review at the February 9, 2023 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for past meetings can be found on the Town's website: www.townofross.org.



Marin Water explores adjustment to water rates

Customer workshops scheduled for February to engage public in the process

Amid rising costs driven by inflation and reduced revenue due to drought, Marin Water will explore potential rate increases over the next few months.

More than 191,000 customers depend on Marin Water to provide clean, reliable water every day. With 95% of District operational costs remaining fixed regardless of local water usage, a rate adjustment will be required to maintain the District's longstanding commitment to sustainably serve its customers.

To ensure customers are fully informed of the rate-setting process, the proposed adjustment and the reasons an adjustment is needed, Marin Water will host three in-person customer workshops and one virtual meeting in February. These workshops will be in addition to Special Board meetings and will be designed to create opportunities for customers to participate in the discussion. The same information will be provided at each workshop, and the workshops have been scheduled for various dates and locations throughout the District's service area as well as virtually to provide multiple opportunities for customers to attend a meeting. All meetings are from 6 – 8 p.m. and dates and locations can be found [here](#), under customer workshops.



Fire-Smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners

FEBRUARY: Fire-Smart Landscaping tips from the UC Master Gardeners

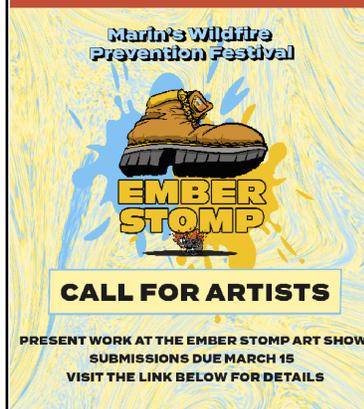
Trees and Shrubs - Consider Spacing

- Plant spacing, size control and maintenance are more important than type of plant. We cannot eliminate fire but we can alter the fire's behavior.
- Consider creating separation by increasing spacing between tree canopies while considering flat vs sloped terrain.
- Maintain vertical clearance of at least 3X the shrub's height between the tops of shrubs and the bottom of the tree canopy. This can be done by pruning the shrub down, or pruning smaller, easily ignitable tree branches up, or both.
- Avoid massing woody shrubs at the base of trees. Consider low-growing, herbaceous plants instead. Create islands of plants with non-combustible paths to interrupt spread of fire.

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



Call for Artists: Ember Stomp 2023



Showcase your work! Fire Safe Marin invites artists to submit works of art exploring what it means to adapt to wildfire.

Juried selected works will be exhibited at Ember Stomp, an annual Wildfire Prevention Festival at the Civic Center Fairgrounds on **May 20, 2023!**

Find more details at the application link below.

[Apply Here](#)



Resilient Neighborhoods: Be Part of the Climate Solution

Learn to Live Lightly on the Earth

In this free 5-session workshop you will reduce your carbon footprint and get prepared for emergencies. Taking simple actions like trimming energy and waste, utilizing clean energy, conserving water, and making smarter transportation choices can save money too. You'll see the positive results of your actions and help build a stronger and safer community. Plan to attend all 5 meetings, but, don't worry if you can't make one, you will be able to make it up.



AGE FRIENDLY CORNER

Tips to live long and well in Ross

Save the Date:

March 22, 2023: Breakfast Gathering
10am-11:30am at the Crown and Crumpet Cafe

The Ross Age Friendly Task Force is pleased to invite you to a breakfast gathering for Ross older adults.

As we age, things accumulate, which can complicate our lives. Hear what you can do to make your life simpler and easier. Guest speaker Erica Hunt has years of experience guiding people on ways to lighten up their households.

Come and see old friends and neighbors and make new ones. Space is limited. To register, please contact Ross Recreation at rossrec@rossrecreation.org, or call 415 453-6020 by March 4.



Love from the Ross Age Friendly Task Force

RECREATION NEWS

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN! Register online at www.rossrecreation.org or by calling (415) 453-6020.

Spring classes start in March! The full list of Spring offerings is available here: www.rossrecreation.org. *If a class you want is full, be sure to get on the waitlist!* Classes include:

- ◆ K-2 Sporty Girl Sports with Sandrick (Monday)
- ◆ K-2 Soccer with Jean Marc (Tuesday)
- ◆ Lacrosse for Kinder and 3.5-5 year olds (Tuesday)
- ◆ Grades 1-4 Hip Hop Dance (Tuesday)
- ◆ Grades 1-6 Flag Football with Jean Marc (Tuesday)
- ◆ 3.5- 5-year-olds First Step Soccer (Tuesday)
- ◆ Sports Early Release with Sandrick (Wednesday)
- ◆ 1st and 2nd Grade Boys and Girls Lacrosse with Jean Marc (Thursday)
- ◆ Chess with Chess Master David for Grades 1-5 (Thursday)
- ◆ Pee-Wee T-Ball (Thursday)
- ◆ Holly Hoppin' Phoenix Lake Fridays for Grades 1-5 (Friday).

Holly Hoppin' **Spring Break Camp** will take your kids on an adventure during a much-deserved break from school! For ages 4.5-11, this creative adventure camp runs from 4/10-4/14, 9:00am-1:00pm at Phoenix Lake. Register at www.rossrecreation.org.

FUN FOR ADULTS: More adult and senior classes are coming! You can look forward to Zumba Gold, Chair Yoga, Floral design, and American Mah Jong for Beginners this Spring.

The February session of adult Chi Gong began last week and is on Thursdays from 10:00-11:00am, February 2, 9, 16, and 23. The program is held on the Ross Common or inside the Ross Rec Classroom (if raining). Register as a single drop-in or for the whole series at www.rossrecreation.org or by calling (415) 453-6020.



KIDS CLUB IS BACK!

WITH LAURA LYDECKER AND KIARA ORTIZ

OPEN TO GRADES K-5. FOLLOWS THE ROSS SCHOOL CALENDAR. INDOOR/OUTDOOR PLAY, ARTS, CRAFTS, AND HOMEWORK HELP. MONDAY - FRIDAY AT "DISMISSAL TIME" UNTIL 5PM.

REGISTER AT ROSSRECREATION.ORG/KIDSLUB

Meet Laura and Kiara!

Laura has been in childcare and recreation for 20 years, working previously with Ross Preschool and Holly Hoppin' programs. Kiara, who is an illustrator and graphic designer, previously worked for the past 2 years at Mathnasium as a math tutor for ages 5-15!

ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2023

Feb 15 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
 Feb 20 -- -- Town Hall offices closed for Presidents Day

MARCH 2023

Mar 6 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
 Mar 9 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
 Mar 21 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

APRIL 2023

Apr 10 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
 Apr 13 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
 Apr 18 7:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

MAY 2023

May 8 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
 May 11 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
 May 16 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
- cmartel@townofross.org		- rpata@townofross.org	
Building Department	415-453-1453 x106	Public Works Director	415-453-1453 x115
- breher@townofross.org		- rsimonitch@townofross.org	
Bldg Inspection Hotline	415-453-1453 x170	Recreation Department	415-453-6020
- erobbe@townofross.org		- rossrec@rossrecreation.org	
Planning/Building Director	415-453-1453 x121	Ross Valley Fire Dept	415-258-4686
- rmarkwick@townofross.org		Town Manager	415-453-1453 x107
Planner	415-453-1453 x116	- cjohnson@townofross.org	
- alopez-vega@townofross.org			

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Visit us at www.townofross.org



We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email cmartel@townofross.org

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