

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Corner



Mayor P. Beach Kuhl

Despite the National Weather Service's forecast for more cold and rainy weather through March, Spring does arrive this month--on the 20th-- and with it there are many signs already present. To start with, Daylight Savings time returns this week-

end. The Girl Scouts are out in their brown uniforms selling their delicious cookies. On March 22, Ross Rec and the RPOA will present an Age Friendly breakfast at Crown and Crumpet with an expert on spring cleaning as the guest speaker!

For those who have returned to their offices -- and no doubt those still working from home, too-- productivity will plummet

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Ross School and Police Work with Students for Common Good

Earlier this school year, messaging was sent home to families of Ross School students about riding scooters on the Common and taking precautions to avoid scaring or accidentally striking pedestrians. To reinforce this messaging, Chief Pata met with Superintendent Rice, Principal Lubamersky, and other Ross School staff members to propose a student-managed communications project. In collaboration with school staff and the Ross Police Department, students will develop a video and classroom media campaign about e-scooter and e-bike safety on Ross Common. The video will be shown to students at The Ross School this year and again at the beginning of next year.



This month, students will be invited to the Ross Police station and work with Sergeant Danny Moy and the Chief to record public safety videos encouraging their classmates to be safe when riding to and from school and around the Common. Also, Ross police officers will recognize students who are doing a great job of safely navigating their e-scooters and e-bikes and giving advice to those students who are not following safe riding laws.

Our initiative will be re-enforced by the Safe Routes to School "Walk and Roll" events that will take place from March through May. The names of consistently safe riders will be sent to our Ross School team, so safe riders can be recognized and entered into the school's "Caught in the Act" drawing and mentioned in the school bulletin. Additionally, the Ross Police Association gives an award each year at the Ross School graduation. This year we will include for consideration someone who has worked hard on our mission of bicycle, e-bike and e-scooter safety both on their way to school and on the Common.

Council Member McMillan, Police Chief Pata, Public Works Director Simonitch, and other community members are part of the Safe Routes to School Task Force for the Town of Ross. Though the Task Force is separate from the student-led communications project at Ross School, the Task Force provides guidance and information.

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as March Madness commences and men's and women's collegiate basketball teams begin competing for the NCAA national championships. Television viewers will be paying special attention to the Stanford women's and St. Mary's men's teams.

And then, at the very end of this month, our San Francisco Giants open the baseball season getting acclimated to the new game-shortening rules. They open in perhaps the most iconic surroundings for that sport, playing the New York Yankees in Yankee Stadium.

But when you come right down to it, the best sign of spring is the swelling buds on the trees and shrubs in our own backyards, parks, and open spaces. By the end of the month we should have plenty of color. I hope you'll get out and enjoy it.

~~Mayor P. Beach Kuhl ■



New Amenities on Ross Common

The Town continues its program to revitalize the Ross Common landscape features and add new amenities in preparation for another fun-filled year of sports and leisure activities for the young and the young at heart. A new 3-way drinking fountain and bottle filling station nearly completed along the new pathway, and a newly refurbished backstop are ready just in time for Ross Little League to start. Over the next few weeks the Town will begin replacing the two older benches within the grove area with three new low-maintenance, age-friendly benches along the pathway. Other projects planned for this summer include removing and replacing the old boxwood hedges along the perimeter of the field with a new low hedge, and a new mini-plaza entry feature to the field located in line with the crosswalk from the Post Office. Stay tuned for updates over the next few months!



Ross School: Spring Update

• New Superintendent

Ross School is excited to announce that after a comprehensive search, David Rice has been selected as our new Superintendent. David previously served as the 5th-8th grade Ross School Principal and Director of Curriculum and Instruction as well as the Interim Superintendent from July 2022-February 2023. Before coming to Ross School, David served as an Assistant Principal in the Tamalpais Union High School District.

David is an advocate for the implementation of social-emotional programming and the use of restorative practices in schools. He is also an advocate for student voices in their learning and believes in every student's ability to learn and grow at a high level. When not working to improve education, David enjoys being at the beach surfing and boogie boarding with his wife and two children.

• Upcoming Events

This year they have been working hard to ensure that the 2022-23 school year is full of growth, engagement, opportunity, community, and joy. It is with the support of the entire Ross School District community that they have been able to achieve so much and they invite you to come see for yourself at one of their upcoming Spring events. **To RSVP for an event or to register to receive occasional Ross School updates, please register [here](#).**

www.RossSchoolFoundation.org

PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the March 9, 2023 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's March 9 website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted on this page after adoption by the Council.

Address: 10 Southwood
Applicant: Julie Johnson
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 4-0-1 (Robbins recused)

Address: 22 & 26 Ross Common
Applicant: Christopher Dean
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

Address: 41 Poplar Avenue
Applicant: Eric M. Spletzer
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0



Robert Smithton

Robert Smithton, Citizen Extraordinaire

Each morning, you can see Robert Smithton walking from the Ross Post Office to the College of Marin parking lot and each afternoon from his home to Natalie Coffin Greene park, picking up trash along the way. He'll tell you he's lived in Ross since 1994 and after retiring has enjoyed giving back to the town by picking up more than 10 pounds of trash every week. He finds it amazing how much trash others leave behind. The Town of Ross would like to recognize Robert for the positive impacts he makes every day and thank him for his work to keep Ross clean and beautiful.

Fire-Smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners

MARCH: Remove and replace invasive plants

- Remove invasive plants such as ivy, broom, and pampas grass that spread quickly, cause harm to the environment, add considerable fuel for fire and use precious water.
- Unfortunately, excessive clearing can create a vulnerable entry point for the plants we do not want.
- Pull weeds and invasive plants before they go to seed to keep them from spreading.
- Replace with California natives, pollinator or low water use plants keeping drought tolerance and biodiversity in mind.

For persistent invasives, consider sheet mulching to help with weed suppression. Additional information on appropriate mulches and use can be found following the link below.

FOR MORE FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPING INFORMATION VISIT UC MARIN MASTER GARDENER

WEBSITE: <http://ucanr.edu/ucmarinmgfiresmart>



[The Morning After](#)

Call-for-Artists for Ember Stomp



Fire Safe Marin and Marin Center Cultural Services invite 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. The art will then be shown at the Marin County Civic Center Gallery from May-August 2023.

Juror: Emebet B Korn, Founder and Director of [DEST A Gallery](#)

Our world is changing and we must adapt to survive. This exhibition is intended to inspire thought and conversation about:

- Our changing relationship with nature
- The effects of climate change
- How the threat of wildfire affects us individually and collectively
- Resilience of people and our environment

Submissions are due April 1. [Apply Here](#)



What's New in Rec?

Ross Recreation is excited to share new programs for adults coming this Spring. One highly anticipated program is Technology for Seniors, which helps seniors turn tech fear into tech savvy! Through independent contract instructor, Technology4Life, a Marin based organization, those 60+ will learn step-by-step, in a hands-on class, how to use their iPhone and iPad, Android Smartphones, Computer Basics, Social Media, Managing your Photos, and Online Safety. Other programs, such as Acrylic Art with local artist Graciela Placak, Zumba Gold, Pickleball with Pickleball Organized, and Chair Yoga will also be coming to Ross Rec this Spring.

Spring and Summer registration for youth classes and camps is still available! Go to rossrecreation.org to get in on the fun, today!

AGE FRIENDLY CORNER

Tips to live long and well in Ross

5 Super-Basic Life Skills Not Learned Until 50 Years Old—That You Might Not Know Either

- ♦How to breathe: Deeper. Bring air down into the belly, through the nose. "Belly breathing" brings in more oxygen, and it's better for your lungs and can lower tension.
- ♦How to sit: First planting your feet, then using your thighs, butt and abdomen—not your arms—to power up and back down. This improves stability and strength.
- ♦How to stand: Position your feet right below your hips. 60 percent of your weight in the heels and 40 percent in the toe box area (from the ball of your big toe across to the ball of your small toe). Together, this area and the heels form a tripod to hold you up. From this solid foundation, with your knees rotated out ever so slightly, the rest of your body can naturally and properly stack above shoulders above pelvis.
- ♦How to walk: Keep your shoulders down and back (meaning not up by your ears!) and strike your steps from heel to toe. Then, for better balance, which produces more energy, swing your arms straight out, coordinating the movement so that the right arm is in front when the left leg is in front, and vice versa.
- ♦How to smile: Turn up the corners of your mouth, the very act of moving your mouth muscles into an upward curve [tricks your brain](#) into "reading" you as happy, igniting chemical changes that then make you feel so.

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/KIDSClub

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

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)
Apr 27	9am-2pm		Town Budget Workshop

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)

JUNE 2023

June 5	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
June 8	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
June 20	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

JULY 2023

July 4	All Day		Town Hall Administrative Offices Closed
July 10	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Association, Town Hall
July 13	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
July 18	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			

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 320, Ross, CA 94957
 Street Address: 31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Ross, CA 94957

Visit us at www.townofross.org



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

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