

THE MORNING AFTER

TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 18 | Issue 10 | October 2024

Mayor's Corner



Mayor Bill Kircher

You have no doubt heard the expression “We are not out of the woods yet.” In Ross, we are usually not out of the woods for very long. We live in a kind of semi-urban forest. The tree canopy and closeness to nature, along with the small-

town character and charm of Ross, are the reason many of us choose to make our homes here.

In September, we were reminded of some of the pluses and minuses of our life in this beautiful setting.

On the minus side, we find that, as much as we appreciate our trees, insurance companies increasingly do not. In reaction to the risk of catastrophic property loss from wildfire, insurers are continuing to withdraw from certain property insurance markets or to pare back their exposure by means of systematic non-renewals of property insurance policies, leaving residents to scramble for replacement insurance. Zip codes and other areas with what one insurer described as having “too many trees” appear to be particularly vulnerable. In a *Continued on Page 2*

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Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California (FHANC)

Mission: To ensure equal housing opportunity and educate the community on the value of diversity in our neighborhoods.

Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California (FHANC) is an organization providing support for homeowners and renters of Marin, Solano, Sonoma, and other surrounding counties. The organization aids with investigating and filing housing discrimination complaints with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH). FHANC is also HUD certified to offer pre-purchase counseling and education programs, as well as foreclosure prevention counseling and workshops.

For more information on the services provided by FHANC, visit their [website](#) and read their [fair housing flyer](#).

**1314 Lincoln Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901
Tel: (415) 457-5025**

TDD: (800) 735-2922

**www.fairhousingnorcal.org
fhanc@fairhousingnorcal.org**



program held at the Marin Art and Garden Center on September 18 entitled "Getting Ahead of the Insurance Crisis" the Barber-Winship Firewise Neighborhood, in association with the Town of Ross and Bald Hill Firewise Community, conducted a community forum on hazard insurance, defensible space and home hardening. Special thanks to Ned Purdom, Mark Brown, and Kathleen Cutter for this terrific program chock full of useful information and advice.

Please do keep in mind that the warm Fall months, coupled with the possibility of strong Diablo winds blowing in from the northeast, still pose a serious wildfire risk. Be on the lookout for red flag days and keep your to-go kits handy.

On the plus side, we again had the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of Ross when we gathered under the trees on the Ross Common on September 27 for our annual Town Dinner. Although the turnout was less than in previous years, it was a treat to get together with friends and neighbors for this fun event. Many thanks to Ross Rec and Public Works for their efforts in organizing the dinner.

As we continue into the Fall months, we can look forward to more outdoor activities before the beginning of the rainy season. Stay tuned for the next Live on the Common event on October 18, and then get ready for another annual tradition, Halloween on Shady Lane.

~Mayor Bill Kircher

North Bay Zero Waste Week

October 12-19, 2024

Zero Waste Week is a grass-roots approach to raise awareness about the environmental impacts of waste and ways to live a more zero waste lifestyle. Throughout the week, groups around the North Bay Area demonstrate how they are part of the solution through public education events and activities that focus on reducing, reusing, recycling, repurposing and composting. Zero Waste can also apply to resource use like water and energy conservation. This is about mindful use and consumption. Anyone can be part of the solution!

Find [events](#) on the calendar to join us in taking zero waste action.

Zero Waste Month is an annual global campaign by Race to Zero Waste. During Zero Waste Month, we turn the Race to Zero Waste into a SPRINT! Are you ready to push for zero waste?

During Zero Waste Month, we invite the public to make an extra effort, try something new in their journey toward zero waste, and share on social media! We highlight expert voices and advocacy groups that are advancing the zero waste mission, along with discussing equity and accessibility concerns within the zero waste movement. Join the sprint at zerowastemonth.org!

go
zero
waste



PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the October 10, 2024 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's October 10 website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted on this page after adoption by the Council.

Address: 7 Willow Hill
Applicant: Scott Grace
Council Action: Approved
Vote (for/against/abstain): 5-0-0

County Flood Control Projects Moving Forward

The Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District will be hosting an informational open house event on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at Marin Catholic High School's Student Center, to showcase the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project (CMCFRM). The CMCFRM project proposes several flood control improvements in the Corte Madera Creek beginning downstream of the Lagunitas bridge in Ross and continuing through Kentfield and Larkspur. Of particular interest to Ross Residents is the long-awaited removal of the wooden fish ladder in the creek behind the Post Office, and other flood control and fish passage improvements in the concrete channel and the natural creek downstream of the Lagunitas bridge. Click [here](#) for more information.

Getting Ahead of the Insurance Crisis: Follow up Information from Sept 18 Event

A conscientious approach to fire prevention as well as quick responses to insurers' non-renewal notices are the keys to retaining insurance, according to experts who spoke Sept. 18th to San Anselmo and Ross residents concerned about a surge in insurance cancellations.

The educational event, sponsored by the Barber-Winship Firewise Neighborhood and the Town of Ross, attracted about 80 participants at the Marin Art and Garden Center.



To read the full follow up story in The Lookout Newsletter, click [here](#).

Fire-Smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners



October: Fire-smart Plant Considerations

With the winter's wetter season approaching, now is a good time to plant new or transplant existing plants in your landscape.

While there are no fire-resistant plants since all plants can burn, there are aspects to consider when [selecting plants](#) to include in your fire-smart landscape. [Plant spacing](#), size, distance from structures ([zones](#)), and [maintenance](#) are important considerations.

Consider:

- Plants that have a higher moisture content, lower resin or sap content, and less volatile oils.
- Low-growing plants and plants that don't produce excessive amounts of dry, combustible vegetation that can act as fuel for fires.
- [California native plants](#) that are well adapted to your climate and ecosystem which will be more likely to thrive without excessive watering and maintenance, reducing fire risk.
- [Horizontal and vertical spacing](#) between plants and hardscape features that separate plant groupings to break up the path of fire.

Avoid plants that:

- Tend to build up dead thatch inside or under a green surface layer.
- Produce and shed excessive dead, dry, or fine debris.
- Create fire ladders such as vines or shrubs that grow beneath trees and create vertical pathways for fire to climb.
- Are [invasive](#).



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE UC [MARIN MASTER GARDENER WEBSITE](#).

Creek Clean-Up Day Follow-Up

Much thanks to the many who showed up ready to accomplish good work to benefit the local creek areas. This work not only rids the area of trash, but could make a big difference during heavy rainfall. A total of 4 yards of branches and other debris was removed from the creek area.

Kudos!!





Join us for [Live on the Common](#) Friday, October 18th, with Elliott Peck and Friends, local Americana musicians.

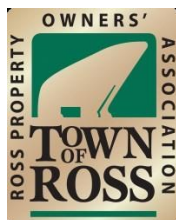
Local food, food trucks, drinks, and children's activities will be available. Please bring a chair or picnic blanket. RPOA will also set up lighting, heaters, tables, and chairs for our residents. The RPOA will have corn holes and a volleyball court on the Common for children and families to enjoy.

This event is made possible thanks to a collaboration between the Ross Property Owners' Association (RPOA), Ross Auxiliary, the Town of Ross, and an incredible team of volunteers. We encourage all Ross residents—homeowners and renters—to [join RPOA or renew your membership for 2024](#) to help make events like this possible.

Elliott Peck

Jon Chi arranged for to join us for this Live on the Common. She made a name for herself by lending harmonies to everyone, from Phil Lesh and Bob Weir to Jackie Green and Lukas Nelson. As a member of the band Midnight North, she has appeared on bills with Bonnie Raitt. We are thrilled to have her join us at Live on the Common.

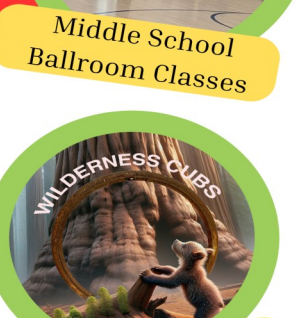
Please learn more about Elliott Peck at <https://www.elliottpeck.com/> or follow her on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/elliottmpeck/?hl=en>.





FALL REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Ross Recreation offers programs for all ages, tots to seniors. Afterschool program schedules at Ross School begin at dismissal and follow the Ross School academic calendar. Ross Recreation offers Non-School Day Camps during all school closure dates to further support our families.



Fee Assistance is available!!
Call for more information and to apply!
(415) 453-6020

REGISTER TODAY! (415) 453-6020 www.rossrecreation.org

5 Internet Safety Tips



Don't Give Out Personal Information

Keep your personal information private and use it on safe sites only.

Create Complex Passwords

Create passwords with a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols.



Keep Your Computer Updated

Keep your device software up to date so it is not vulnerable to malware.

Check Website Reliability

Before purchasing anything on a website ensure that it's safe.



Avoid Suspicious Online Links

Some websites may steal your personal information by asking you to take a quiz. Be careful!

Voting-Related Deadlines for Marin County Voters

Oct. 7, mail-in ballots are sent to all registered voters. Voting opens at Marin Elections Dept.

Oct. 8, Drop Boxes for mail-in ballots open.

Oct. 21 is the last day to register to vote; however, there is still Conditional and same-day voter registration. Registering to vote after Oct. 21 means the ballot is "conditional" and will be counted after election officials confirm the voter is registered to vote in this County and did not already vote in the election.

Oct. 26, Vote Centers open in Marin County. Locations posted on www.MarinVotes.org. Marin County voters can vote at any Vote Center.

Oct. 29 is last day to request by phone a vote by mail ballot (however, voters can still pick up a mail-in ballot at any Vote Center in Marin County).

Nov. 2, additional Vote Centers open. Locations posted on www.MarinVotes.org. Marin County voters can vote at any Vote Center.

Nov. 5 is **Election Day**, the last day to vote in person (7 am to 8 pm at a Vote Center) or postmark a mail-in ballot. Nov. 12 is the last day mail-in ballots postmarked Nov. 5 are accepted.



ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2024

- Oct 15 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Oct 18 5:00 pm Live on the Common

NOVEMBER 2024

- Nov 11 All Day Veteran's Day Holiday—Town Offices Closed
- Nov 14 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Nov 19 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Nov 28 & 29 All Day Thanksgiving Holiday—Town Offices Closed

DECEMBER 2024

- Dec 9 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
- Dec 12 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Dec 17 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Dec 24 & 25 All Day End of Year Holidays—Town Offices Closed

JANUARY 2025

- Jan 6 7:00 pm Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
- Jan 9 6:00 pm Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
- Jan 20 All Day Martin Luther King Jr Holiday—Town Offices Closed
- Jan 21 6:00 pm Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)

CONTACT US

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