

# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 18 | Issue 9 | September 2024

### Mayor's Corner



Mayor Bill Kircher

As we head into the Fall months, please be sure to add the Ross Town Dinner to your calendar, if you haven't already done so. This is an annual tradition which began in 2005 and will again take place on the Common on

September 27. It's a chance to mingle and reconnect with friends and neighbors under the trees. Details can be found on the Town's [website](#).

I hope you also had a chance to participate in the Live on the Common event on September 6. Many thanks to the RPOA for putting on this event, and special thanks to Elena Batalla for all her continuing efforts in organizing these fun and entertaining get-togethers.

The summer months are typically a slow time in Ross, with many families vacationing and participating in summer outside activities. But you might have noticed that work has continued throughout the summer on various infrastructure projects, both in Ross and in Marin County generally. *Continued on Page 2*

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## Home Match Marin

Home Match is a free service based out of San Rafael that connects people seeking to rent a room in their home or ADU on their property with community members seeking affordable housing options. Home Providers benefit from additional income, companionship, and/or help with chores such as grocery shopping, pet care, or transportation. Home Seekers benefit from increased access to affordable housing options and navigation services.

Each match is personalized with the process overseen by program staff—at no cost to participants. Home Match benefits everyone. It decreases isolation, provides housing security, and above all, builds community. If you have a room to spare in your home, consider opening your doors to provide an affordable option for someone facing today's challenging housing market.

Contact Home Match Marin at [HomeMatch-Marin@frontporch.net](mailto:HomeMatch-Marin@frontporch.net) or call [\(415\) 456-9068](tel:4154569068) to get started today.

**Commonality.**

**Companionship.**

**Community.**



See the Home Match [brochure](#).

Visit Home Match's [website](#) to learn more.

Some of our local projects are short term, and some longer or completed in phases, including for example safe routes to school. And then there are the mega projects, important and consequential, but also complex, with many moving parts, and with a much longer time horizon.

One such project is the replacement of our aging town administrative and public safety buildings. We completed site planning last year, but further detailed construction planning is dependent on whether the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority is willing to make a sufficient commitment to keep its paramedic station, also known as Medic 18, in Ross. We had originally been led to believe we might have a decision in this regard sometime in the Spring, but action is now not expected until later this year due to delays in completion of a study that the Paramedic Authority has commissioned.

The other major undertaking is one in which Ross is a stakeholder but is not in charge of the overall project, and that is removal of the fish ladder and related changes in the Corte Madera Creek channel to reduce the risk of flooding in times of heavy rain. In perusing some old issues of The Morning After newsletter, I noticed that back in 2010 replacement of the fish ladder was predicted to occur in 2011. As they say, a lot of water has gone under the bridge since then, but the bottom line is, the fish ladder is still there, thirteen years later. The Flood Zone 9 website currently states that [removal of the fish ladder](#) is "anticipated" in 2025.

For the present, please enjoy these last days of summer, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the Town dinner on the 27th.

~Mayor Bill Kircher

September 4, 2024

Marin  
Art and  
Garden  
Center



Dear Neighbors,

As you may know, Marin Art and Garden has been working on plans to update the Center. We are submitting revised plans to the Town of Ross this week for first phase of our Master Plan, called "Sowing the Seeds." The latest plan includes changes based on community, partner, neighbor and official feedback on our initial submission.

We understand there are likely questions about certain elements of the plan, and how it will impact our partners, neighbors and organizations that use our space. To address these concerns, we are scheduling informational tours in the coming weeks.

We have a tour scheduled for neighbors and Town residents on **Thursday, September 19 from 1:00 - 2:00 PM.**

The tour will take about an hour and will be a walking tour around the Garden to see first-hand how the different locations will be upgraded.

Please let me know if you can attend, or if you have any other questions. I can be reached at [kelly.miller@maringarden.org](mailto:kelly.miller@maringarden.org), or 415-455-3260. If you cannot make this tour, but are interested in our plans, please let us know. We will be scheduling other tours in the near future and will keep you informed of any upcoming sessions.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards,

Kelly Miller  
Director of Development

30 St. Francis Drake Blvd  
PO Box 437  
Ross, CA 94957  
(415) 455-3260  
[maringarden.org](http://maringarden.org)



at Marin Art and  
Garden Center

A Culinary Fundraiser

9.15.24 • 5-8 PM

SIP  
local wine  
& botanical cocktails

SAVOR  
sumptuous  
tastings

STROLL  
through the Garden  
& enjoy live music



Sumptuous culinary tastings paired with libations from local food and beverage sponsors.  
*(list as of 8.1—check [maringarden.org/ediblegarden](http://maringarden.org/ediblegarden) for updates)*



For tickets/information

[maringarden.org/ediblegarden](http://maringarden.org/ediblegarden)

## VOTE 2024

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to empowering everyone to fully participate in our democracy. There is a wealth of voting-related information on the LWV's website at: [www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org). You can also find Marin-specific information at: [www.MarinLWV.org](http://www.MarinLWV.org), [www.MarinVotes.org](http://www.MarinVotes.org), as well as [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org).

## PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the September 12, 2024 Council meeting. Staff reports and video for the meeting can be found on the Town's September 12 website page. The minutes for the meeting will be posted on this page after adoption by the Council.

**Address: 21 Loma Linda**

**Applicant: Ben Kozub & Scott Golden**

**Council Action: Approved**

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

## Doris Hong, 100 Years Young

She was born August 27th 1924 in San Francisco. Following her marriage to Ned Hong, long time Ross resident and one of the first students at Ross grammar school, she moved to Ross where they raised their two sons who also attended Ross grammar school. She has lived in town for 80 years! Her husband Ned Hong passed away in 2014.



Doris was a long time employee with PG&E in their accounting department. She has taken great pleasure in her loving family which includes grandchildren and great grandchildren.

## Fire-Smart Tips from the UC Master Gardeners



### September: Maintaining a Fire-Smart Zone 1

After cleaning Zone 0 (0-5 feet from your home) of any combustible materials, this month we'll focus on applying the Fire-Smart Landscaping principles of "*think lean, clean, and green*", and "*start at the house and work out*" to Zone 1 (5-30 feet from home).

#### A Clean Zone 1

Remove any dead vegetation and dry grasses from the landscape to reduce potential fuel. Regularly prune trees and shrubs to remove dead branches, and remove dead flowers to reduce flammable material from your landscape.

#### A Lean & Green Zone 1

Regularly inspect plants for drought stress and water appropriately to keep plants healthy. Plants will need less water as we enter cooler weather in the fall months.

Prune trees and shrubs to reduce the canopies' density and maintain appropriate space between plants to slow down the spread of fire from plant to plant. Remove low-hanging branches from trees to create space between lower vegetation and reduce the risk of ladder fuels.

Take advantage of Chipper Days to get rid of your garden debris by going to <https://www.chipperday.com/marin>

**And remember, ongoing maintenance of Zone 0 (0-5 feet from your home) is critical during fire season.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPING, VISIT <https://ucanr.edu/ucmarinmgfiresmart>.



## Moon Gazing Follow Up

On July 13, 2024, Ross hosted its first ever astronomy event on the Ross Common. About 40 people of all ages, including many children with their parents, participated in an evening of gazing through telescopes at the Moon. Amateur Astronomers from Marin Stargazers, including our own Mayor, Bill Kircher, set up telescopes on the Common for the event. Be on the lookout for another event sometime in the Fall, weather permitting.



*You're Invited to Age Friendly Ross' Breakfast Gathering about*

### DISASTER PLANNING & FIRE PREVENTION

**Monday, Sept 16th 9:30am - 11:30am Cedars**

Join **Age Friendly Ross** for a gathering on Monday, September 16th from 9:30-11:30am at Cedars Ross Residences at 115 Upper Road in Ross.

Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority, Fire Safe Marin, Marin Center for Independent Living, Ross Valley Fire Department and Ross Police will present information on how to prepare for fires and other disasters, and navigate fire insurance issues. Cedars is hosting the event and light breakfast will be provided.

Space is limited so please **RSVP by Sept 9th** 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.

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.



AGE-FRIENDLY ROSS

Artwork by Cedars artist Louis Kahn

# September is National Disaster Preparedness Month

[Public Emergency Portal -Marin County](#)

[Preparing for Extended Power Outages](#)

[Preparing for Wildfire in Marin -Fire Safe Marin](#)

[Prepare Yourself -Fire Safe Marin](#)

Each September, National Preparedness Month encourages and reminds Americans to be prepared for disasters or emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities.

Homeowners, families, communities, and businesses can use this opportunity to find ways or help others understand more about preparing for disasters and reducing risks to health and the environment. There are many ways to reduce risks from contamination, leaks, spills, hazardous materials, and other dangers.

[General information about any emergency](#)

[How to report emergencies](#)

[Individuals and homeowners](#)

[Communities](#)

[Schools, businesses, or other facilities](#)

[Share information](#)



The Barber-Winship Firewise Neighborhood, in association with the Town of Ross and the Bald Hill Firewise Community, invite you to a community forum on hazard insurance, defensible space and home hardening:

## Getting Ahead of the Insurance Crisis

Wednesday September 18, 2024

5 to 7 pm

The Studio at Marin Art and Garden Center, Ross

### Presentations:

- Mark Brown, Executive Officer, Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority – *Actions Marin Wildfire is taking to make Marin "fire adapted" and to help address the insurance crisis.*
- Kathleen Cutter, Marin Wildfire Mitigation Specialist and UC Marin Master Gardener – *Practical defensible space and home hardening steps to help retain your insurance.*
- Q & A

Representatives from Ross Valley Fire, Ross Police, the Town of Ross and home hardening and insurance experts will be in attendance.

Wine – Refreshments – Food

Please RSVP – barberwinship@gmail.com

## How to evacuate, safely from a hillside fire...

This video shares important information about how to evacuate downhill while a wildfire is approaching. Marin Wildfire's Mark Brown explains how to predict wildfire behavior, assess your situation and make strategic moves down a hill to safety. The advice could save your life.

This information is vital for anyone who lives in a hillside area, like Ross. It contains clear information on how to evacuate - downhill, in your car, taking your time to make careful decisions! Especially how to navigate the in-turns and out-turns.

Please take a moment to watch!!



## Robbery Update



The robbery downtown a few weeks ago was startling.

This type of robbery hasn't happened in Ross in over 5 years. Since then, the police department (PD) has collaborated with police agencies across the Bay Area to identify the suspects.

Immediately after the robbery, Ross PD issued a county-wide protocol to locate the suspect vehicle. An all-points bulletin was issued to Marin law enforcement and Bay Area partners to advise them of the case.

As a result of the investigation, it was determined the car used in the robbery was stolen from the South Bay. The group in the car committed other crimes previous to their arrival in Ross. After fleeing, the group appears to have committed another robbery in Mill Valley. The vehicle was last seen in San Francisco and eventually was abandoned in the City of Newark. Thankfully, no one was hurt in any of the crimes.

Chief Pata reached out to Mill Valley Police, Marin Sheriff, Fairfax Police, Central Marin Police as well as Newark Police to share information and obtain forensic evidence. The suspect vehicle was processed for biological evidence which was submitted to the state crime lab for analysis. If a match is found, the offender(s) will be prosecuted. There is no indication this robbery was planned for the Town of Ross.

The PD is evaluating technology to help identify potential future suspects of crimes in Ross, and would like to thank those who assisted by submitting video clips of the area during the robbery. One of the images captured the suspect vehicle, which provided a positive link to the robbery in the Mill Valley case.



# 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.



Kids Club Afterschool!



Middle School Ballroom Classes



Tots (ages 3-5) Classes



Adult & Senior Classes

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

and much more...

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

Purchase seats and reserve wine from 6 Oz Wine Bar today! \$12 per person per seat. Wine available for additional purchase during checkout.



# Annual ROSS TOWN DINNER

SEPTEMBER | 27 | 2024

Ross Common

Music by Pride & Joy and Lunar Mooners

Free caricatures by Pete McDonnell Art

Pre-purchase wine from 6 Oz Wine Bar

Tables, tablecloths and chairs provided

ROSSREC@ROSSRECREATION.ORG (415) 453-6020 ROSSRECREATION.ORG

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Kids Welcome



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Kids Welcome

## Join the Annual 2024 ROSS CREEK CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, September 21, 2024 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Help remove debris and litter from the Corte Madera and Ross Creeks

Meet in front of the Ross Post Office at 9:00 AM sharp

Please wear old clothes, long pants, long sleeves,

Questions: (415) 453-1453, ext. 163



## Pickleball to be Discussed on October 10

At the September 12 Council meeting, staff asked the Council for guidance on regulating pickleball courts on private property.

This topic will be up for discussion again at the October 10 Council meeting and it's an opportunity for Ross residents to voice their opinion. We hope you'll join us either in person or via Zoom.



## The Marin Wildfire Chipper Day Program is back for 2024!

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. Click [here](#) to sign up!!!



chipper day



# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER 2024

Sep 16	9:30	am	Age Friendly Breakfast: Disaster Preparedness (Cedars)
Sep 17	6:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Cancelled)
Sep 17	3:00	pm	Public Works Committee Meeting (Town Hall)
Sep 19	1:00	pm	Sowing the Seeds MAGC Masterplan Tour (MAGC)
Sep 21	9:00	am	Creek Clean Up Day (Meet in Front of the Ross Post Office)
Sep 27	5:30	pm	Ross Town Dinner

## OCTOBER 2024

Oct 7	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
Oct 10	6:00	pm	Town Council Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Oct 15	6:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting (Town Hall & Zoom)
Oct 18	4:30	pm	Live on the Common

## NOVEMBER 2024

Nov TBD	7:00	pm	Ross Property Owners Association (Town Hall)
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

## 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 Director	415-453-1453 x121	Ross Valley Fire Dept	415-258-4686
- <a href="mailto:rfeliciano@townofross.org">rfeliciano@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>			

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](http://www.townofross.org)



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