

RPOA news

A publication of the Ross Property Owners' Association, representing Ross Residents since 1961.

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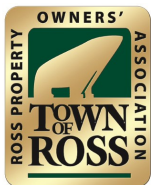
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Mission

The Ross Property Owners' Association (RPOA) has represented Ross Residents since 1961.

The organization's mission as it appears in the By-laws is "to provide funds and services for the benefit of the general community of the Town of Ross." Through the financial support of our members, the RPOA has worked to inform residents of important issues and to contribute to the continual improvement of the community.

The Association holds monthly meetings at 7:15 pm at the Town Hall on the Monday preceding the Town Council meeting. RPOA members are encouraged to participate in our monthly meetings. Issues pertaining to Town matters are discussed, particularly those currently before the Council.

RossPropertyOwners.com



What's Happening Around Our Special Town?

Flowers!

Spring had certainly sprung with the arrival of the Town's annual flower baskets, which were hung on all the Downtown light posts and served as the inspiration behind the Mother's Day card the Ross Property Owners' Association emailed to the residents and friends of our Town. (If you didn't receive the Mother's Day email, please contact us through our new and updated website RossPropertyOwners.com so we can include you on future emails!)

These beautiful flower baskets were designed by Country Gardens Nursery and are made possible by generous donations from our members of RPOA. Undeniably, these flowers help keep Ross a special place to live!

Thank You RPOA Members!



And Special Thanks to former Ross School graduates Marlena and Mackie Skall (sheltering in place at home from University of Southern California) and Max Osterman (entering his senior year at Redwood High School) for their daily watering that is keeping the flowers blooming, and to Noel Funes and Noel Funes, Jr. who provided emergency watering to resuscitate the flowers over the sweltering hot Memorial Day weekend.

Once Ross School is back in session, we hope to add some additional Ross School students (who may be looking for community service hours) to help us take care of the flowers, so stay tuned!





AL FRESCO DINING!

More al fresco dining might be one of the few positives when we all look back at the year 2020. Combine it with a couple of other positives – more walks and more family time – and you have a perfect evening!

So grab your family (or your friends) and walk (or ride or drive) to one of the delicious restaurants in our Town! All of our eateries are now offering al fresco dining – some on the Town's sidewalks and one on a private tree-enclosed patio strung with lights. In either case, it almost feels like a European vacation here at home. A meal at any and all of our Town's lovely restaurants will make you happy to be sheltering at home this summer.



Tony Tutto Pizza



You'll be transported to Italy at first sight when you visit Tony Tutto Pizza, a bustling little pizza kitchen complete with gourmet Italian delectables and wine. This delightful spot is all about excellence in pizza, sprinkled with musical flavors and kissed with colorful passion.



Please visit tonytuttopizza.com for more information on menu and hours.

Marco's Trattoria Fresco



And if you're looking for a wider variety of Italian fare, then Trattoria Fresco is your answer. With all the charm and flavor being served up here (and we're talking the food AND Marco!), you'll feel like you're sitting on the sidewalks of a little village in Tuscany while enjoying your fabulous homemade pasta and Italian wine.



Please visit frescomarin.com for more information on menu and hours.

Marché aux Fleurs



Next stop on this European stay-cation is France – Nice to be exact. It is the flower markets of this riviera town after which Marché aux Fleurs is modeled in order to provide its patrons a place of conviviality and community . . . and let's be honest, some incredibly yummy food! And the ambiance offered under twinkle-lights is not to be missed this summer.

Please visit marcheauxfleursrestaurant.com for more information on menu and hours.

Village Corner



If you don't have time for dinner, but are still in the mood for a little snack, a cold drink or Lappert's Ice Cream, stop by the Village Corner owned and operated by Sally Newson who is always there to greet her visitors with a smile under her mask. The Village Corner is the perfect pairing with any visit to the Commons and reminds us of the days of Eddie's with all the school



kids hanging out after picking out a summer treat. So wonderful to keep that tradition going in our little Town.



And coming soon is **Crown & Crumpet Café**, offering up scrumptious food + cakes along with an assortment of tea + coffee in a prettier than pink tearoom.



Meet Ross Resident Mary Amonette 100 Years Young

Mary Amonette was born on April 7, 1920 on Long Island, New York. She was raised with her three siblings and attended Sarah Lawrence College. Upon graduation and during World War II, she worked for Grumman Aircraft, building airplanes. This led to her wanting to learn to fly and become a WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots). She made her way to Florida and obtained her seaplane and land plane licenses. Although she was hired by the organization (members were U.S. civil service employees who as trained pilots, tested and ferried aircraft and trained other pilots), the program was disbanded before she could start work. Instead, she worked at American Airlines, in charge of crew scheduling for the military and government.

Mary met her husband, Clarence, while visiting friends in San Francisco. After the war, they settled in Ross where she has lived for 65 years; 50 years on Shady Lane and the last 15 years on Norwood. Mary modeled for several years in the 1950's and wrote a book called "Looking Down the Runway" which included her years as a model and pilot.

Her three children, Joan, Alison and Marcy, all attended Ross and Branson Schools. Over the years, Mary has been active with Ross School, Branson School, and St. John's Church. She worked in real estate for 25 years and owned her own real estate company. Mary's husband passed away in 1995, after 50 years of marriage.

Mary tells the story of founding Ross Recreation. She and three other mothers wanted summer programs for their children, however, there were none in the area. They enlisted neighbors' swimming pools and tennis courts. It became so popular they had to hire outside help; thus was the beginning of Ross Recreation. Please join us in congratulating Mary on her milestone birthday!



Meet Ross Resident Ellis Stephens 100 Years Young

Ellis (Steve) Stephens was born on May 24, 1920 in Silver Creek, Mississippi (pop. 210 in 2010). He was the son of a sharecropper, the fourth of seven children, who picked cotton along with his siblings. Ellis was a good hunter in those days and the family survived on what they could hunt, lots of red squirrel according to his daughter. He left home at an early age to "ride the rails" in search of a living and made his way to Utah, having an array of different jobs.

When the U.S. entered World War II, Ellis enlisted in the military and was chosen for special operations, working for The Office of Strategic Services/Counter Intelligence Corporation and later, the CIA. He had a knack for languages, focusing on European and Japanese. When asked about his favorite story, he cites a request directly from General Douglas MacArthur. Ellis was tasked with interviewing the 20 top leaders on the Island of Amami Oshima, which is the seventh largest island in the Japanese archipelago. MacArthur wanted to know whether the Island preferred to be under the protection of the United States or returned to Japan. Ellis reported back to MacArthur, recommending return to Japan. MacArthur followed that recommendation.

After the war, Ellis met Ann Compton in Carmel, California. They lived in Germany and the east coast prior to making their way to Ross in 1959, and building the house he now lives in on Lagunitas. He and Ann raised their three children, Susan, Bruce and Rebecca, in that house and all attended Ross School. His grandson, Sam, and daughter, Rebecca, designed the carving on the tree outside his house and his nephew carved it.

Ellis' "cocktail for longevity" is never taking prescription drugs, be your own person, stay optimistic, and intermittent fasting. He swears by eating a big breakfast (often one meal a day), bacon, eggs and grits. As Ellis says, "There are two things that happen to old people... 1. Loss of memory and 2. I forgot what the other one is." He is full of colorful stories!

Ellis loves to play Dominos. If any of our members would like to play with him, he welcomes the company. Please reach out to him through his daughter, Susan, at phone number 928-300-9962. Happy 100th Birthday Ellis!



MEET OUR POSTMASTER ~ ANA (ANABELLA) SERRANO

Ana was born in Mexico, arriving in the U.S. at age two. She currently lives in Richmond with her two sons. Ana began her career with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) in 1983, and was a mail carrier for 30 years. She was the Administrative Assistant to the Postmaster in San Francisco and a customer service representative prior to becoming the Postmaster in Ross in October 2017.

When asked what are the most important elements that Ross residents should know about the postal service, this is what she emphasized:



1. USPS is in collaboration with all the delivery services (i.e., Fed Ex, UPS) called "The Last Mile." This allows all delivery services to deliver packages to the Post Office if they see fit, bypassing home delivery. As it is imperative that USPS has the P.O. Box number to deliver mail, the number should always appear on the SAME LINE as the street address, using a # after the street. This is important as some companies will drop the second address line from packages. The following method is also critical for any package that is being delivered only through USPS (this "tricks" the USPS computer into finding the correct box number). Therefore, all packages should be addressed in the following manner:

**Jane Doe
2 Chestnut Ave. #1234
Ross, CA 94957**

2. USPS has the "rights" of delivery for all letters and magazines. Therefore, letters and magazines should ALWAYS have the P.O. Box on the first address line. If a company won't deliver to a P.O. Box, use the above method for letters as well.

3. Always put the return address in the top lefthand corner of the envelope, as the computer is programed to look for it on the front of an envelope.

4. Weigh all invitations as the cost of the letter to mail could be more that the normal rate. In addition, odd shaped letters may cost more as well.

5. It is best to have all packages taped and addressed prior to getting in line.

6. If mail is not on a "vacation hold," USPS will only hold packages for 15 days. At that point, packages may be returned.

7. All residents are entitled to a small P.O. Box (free) when moving to Ross but many have "overflow boxes" which is a second box reserved for the boxholder. These do come at a cost depending on size (there are many available). However, if a resident continuously doesn't pick up their mail and/or continuously overflows their box, USPS can charge them up to \$1,300 per year.

8. Residents who move from one address to another within Ross should always inform USPS of their new street address, even though the P.O. Box number will stay the same.

Ana indicated that due to COVID-19 they are holding mail longer than usual to accommodate boxholders. She said that some mail, like unemployment checks and stimulant checks are easy to identify and they work hard to match the street address with the correct P.O. boxholder. However, the way their computer program is set up, it does not always give them the right box number for the street and family. Due to the amount of mail that is received daily, they cannot look up every letter received without a P.O. Box number.

If you have any questions please talk to Ana on your next visit to the Post Office!

What's Happening with Flood Control for Ross?

The Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project, which focuses on the creek area through the communities of Ross and Kentfield, has the goal of reducing the frequency and severity of flooding in our communities. In 2019, the Flood District transitioned to be the lead agency taking over project implementation efforts from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). A draft project concept has been developed which residents and the Town can comment on. The project EIR process scoping meeting is planned to occur in August 2020. Within Ross, the project includes removal of the wooden fish ladder, modifications to Frederick Allen Park including removal of portion of the concrete channel and natural channel restoration and redesign of park features and landscaping, and construction of new floodwalls.



Fish Ladder

In the meantime, the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project has been moving ahead, which consists of three broad components:

1. The removal of commercial buildings and other impediments that alter the flow of the creek in high water.
2. Design and feasibility of the Sunnyside Nursery 33-acre site located just west of Fairfax to provide stormwater diversion and storage.
3. Flood mitigation measures on downstream private properties that may see impacts from the project.

The overall project started in early May 2020, with the demolition work on the L'Appart Restaurant. Next summer, work will also include reinforcement of stretches of the creek bank and building a plaza and flood wall along San Anselmo Avenue.

What's Happening with the Rehabilitation of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard?

The Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Rehabilitation Project consists of various physical modifications to the corridor. In addition to repaving, the project consists of pedestrian/cyclist safety improvements, striping, intersection and signal improvements, traffic operation improvements, utility infrastructure improvements and new street lighting.

The projected timeframe is 18 months, beginning June 15th and finishing in December 2021. The exact hours of the construction are not known yet, but there may be daytime work being done due to the reduced commute traffic caused by the pandemic. There will be traffic delays, but no complete closure of SFD Boulevard.

The funding for this project has come from several sources, including The Transportation Authority of Marin (\$14.5M), other county agencies (\$3.5M) and a reimbursement from MMWD for replacement of their pipeline (\$3M).

The community will be kept up-to-date on the project and announcements can be found on the website www.upgradethedrake.com.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATING
ROSS SCHOOL
8th GRADE CLASS OF 2020!!**



The **Ross School Endowment** says THANK YOU for starting a new tradition of giving at Ross School by leaving a Legacy Gift from the Class of 2020 to the Ross School Endowment of over \$130,000.

Their gift will help to ensure an incredible learning experience for generations of Ross students to come. You can donate too at rossschoolendowment.org.

Best of luck in high school to the Ross School Class of 2020!

The U.S. government needs census takers for Marin.
The temporary, part-time positions pay \$25/hour plus mileage.
People can apply at: 2020census.gov/jobs.

New MarinHealth Medical Center About to Open!



The brand new \$500 million MarinHealth Medical Center (formerly Marin General Hospital) is set to open in the next few months. How lucky are we here in Ross to have access to this brand new state-of-the-art facility just a few miles from our homes! In the meantime, the current facility has been fully prepared for COVID-19 by acquiring necessary equipment, PPE and presently following policies and procedures which are being updated regularly based on CDC guidelines and best practices of other healthcare organizations both locally and nationally.

The MarinHealth Medical Center Emergency Department is fully functional and continues to see patients of all ages who need care. Most importantly, it is safe to come to the MarinHealth Medical Center as any potential COVID-19 patients are evaluated and treated in specifically-designed and dedicated areas, thus keeping non-COVID-19 patients safe. MarinHealth Medical Center is also accepting patients for surgeries and procedures. Testing is done routinely on asymptomatic patients as part of pre-admission preparation. All patients who are hospitalized at MarinHealth are tested, even if they do not display COVID-19 symptoms. If you need a new doctor, call MarinHealth at **1-888-627-4642** or if you need non-emergent after-hours or weekend care, call our **Adult Acute Care Clinic at 1-628-336-5205**.

Thank you for supporting the Ross Property Owners' Association!!

The Ross Property Owners' Association (RPOA) was formed in the 1960's and presently has hundreds of Ross households as members and a Board of seven Ross citizens.

The RPOA's charter is to help make Ross a great place to live by improving Town property and by sponsoring community improvement events.

Thanks to the Membership contributions by you and other Ross residents, the Ross Property Owners' Association has contributed to the following projects and events for Ross as follows:

- *Construction of three new light posts for Town Commons*
- *Hanging flower baskets for Town Commons*
- *Colorful banners on light posts in downtown area*
- *Bulletin Board kiosks at the Post Office and Lagunitas Club*
- *Bike racks in front of Post Office*
- *Christmas and holiday decorations on Ross Bridge and downtown wreaths*
- *Contribution to 4th of July Town decorations*
- *Kittle Park landscaping at Sir Francis Drake & Lagunitas*
- *"Eddie's Tree" in front of Post Office*
- *Doggie Bags at bike path and Town Commons*
- *"Candidate Nights" during Town Council elections*
- *First Aid preparedness classes at Ross School*

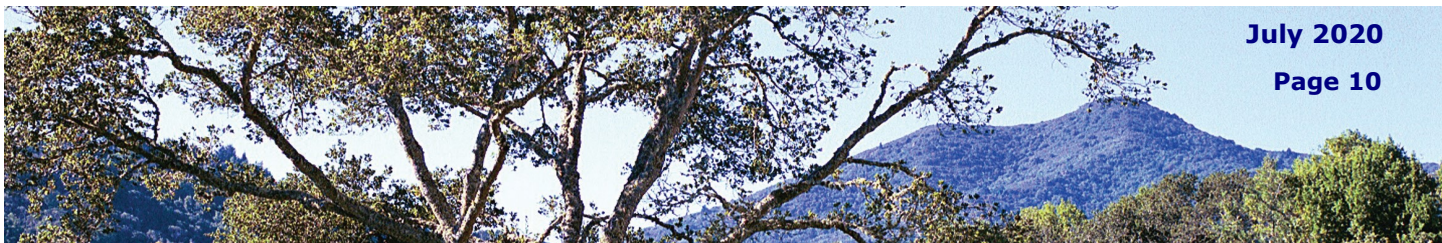


New flower pots in front of Ross Post Office

Bridge festively decorated



Doggie bags



Light Post with Banner and Hanging Flower Basket



We thank all of our RPOA Members for your ongoing support and look forward to your help and suggestions as to how the RPOA can best help make Ross a great place to live!



Bulletin Boards



Bike Racks



Kittle Park

Please check out our new website (www.rosspropertyowners.com) to learn more about what we're doing to keep Ross a special place to live. Come visit us on Facebook and Instagram pages (Ross Property Owners' Association) to see more photos of the flowers, al fresco dining, 4th of July parade and more!



Thank You to Our 2020 Members

If you're not a member, please join us now!

Best Friends of Ross (\$250 or more)

Michael & Nancy Alvarez
The Balmaseda Family
Headmaster, Branson School
Frank & Diane Doodha
Pat & Harold Engle
Mike & Susan Gillfillan
Richard M. Hall
Steve Hauser & Elizabeth Robbins
Leni & Doug Herst
William & Janell Hobart
Marcel & Liora Houtzager
Wendy & Jurgen Huck
John & Glennis Jones
Dan Kalafatas & Hadley Mullin
John & Kim Kieckhefer
Bill & Valerie Kircher
Jeff & Phyllis Koblick
Chris Larsen
Robert & Jennifer Leathers
John L. Levinsohn
Wally & Roseanna Lourdeaux
Wendy Loven
Betsy & Ed McDermott
Ian & Julia McGuire
Mark McLaughlin
Bruce & Janet McLellan
Amelia & Ken Morris
Carla Roth & David Nasaw
Garth & Jaqueline Osterman
Clyde & Janet Ostler
Debbie & Tom Piliero
Mary & Bill Poland
Bruce & Bonnie Potter
Brent H. & Barbara B. Reid
Philip & Susanna W. Rice
Chris & Stephanie Roeder
Robert & Alyssa Rothman
Rus & Diane Rudden
Barney & Temple Schauble
Susan & Dick Schliesmann
Eileen & Chris Sheldon
Carol & Harold Sherley
Patti & Ben Shimek
Marcia & Michael Skall
Ann and Chuck Stevens
Richard Thalheimer
Dan & Iris Winey
Douglas & Nancy Wolcott

Friends of Ross (\$100-\$249)

Shadi & Paige Aboukhatir
Peter & Margaret Allen
Mary Amonette
Sonia Badalamenti
Lorraine & Robert Berry
Tom & Sandy Bertelsen

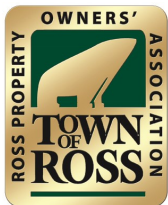
Meade & Terri Boutwell
Dennis & Leslie Brush
Joey Buckingham
Bill & Jeanne Cahill
Jonathan M. & Tyler Child
David Churton
Janell & Joe Ciatti
Scott Clark & Holly Tate
Susan & Mitch Cohen
Colby & Caskie Collet
Jo Ann & Julien Collins
Marie & Brian Collins
Dudley & Michael Delbalso
Patricia Duffy & Les Sherman
Chris & Lindsay Dunham
Robert & Katherine Elliott
Bob & Chris Feibusch
Tallie & Tom Fishburne
Barbara & Tom Gaffney
Nancy Gilmour
Susan M. Giorgi
Rolando & Gloria Gotti
Diane Grialou
Peggy Haas
Jim & Stephanie Harleen
Lenore Heffernan
Christopher & Yolande Heller
Paul & Valerie Herzog
Scott & Debra Hilleboe
Rich & Katie Hoertkorn
Lisa James & Murray Kenney
Donna & Don Kelleher
Kristine Kelley & James Martling
Beach & Janey Kuhl
David & Margie Laub
KC & Steve Lauck
Cindy & Sam Livermore
John D. Lumpkin & Erin McCaffrey
Brian Lurie & Caroline Fromm-Lurie
Jeff & Susanne Lyons
J. W. Y. Martin, III
Charles & Claire McBride
Chris & Mary McFadden
Christine McGonigle
Katy & Francis McGovern
Paige & Chad Meuse
Jeff & Katelin Mezzetta
Tom & Joy Misteale
David & Janet Mourning
Zara & Dennis Muren
Daniel & Jennifer Nathanson
David and Gina Nellesen
Kathy & Bill Nunan
James O'Hara & Cynthia Weldon
Arline S. O'Neill
Anish Patel
Phillip & Sharon Pillsbury

Maria Pitcairn
Edgar & Judy Rainin
Dr. & Mrs. Joel Renbaum
Richard & Marilyn Riede
Bob and Sheri Riedel
David Riley & Sarah Friar
Kristin & Jim Robillard
Michael & Elika Rosenbaum
Ross Historical Society/Moya
Martha & Paris Royo
Matt & Amy Sagues
Najah Sharkiah
Sina & Golnaz Shekou
Sally Shekou & Robert Herbst
Ken & Judy Siebel
Sean & Nancy Svendsen
David & Sarah Swain
Stephen & Jacqueline Swire
Bill & Sue Talmage
Dan & Michele Tedford
Julie & Jeffrey Thomson
Patty Treadwell
Paul Violich
Robert J. Walker
Larry Wasserman
David & Kay Werdegard
Stefan Williams
Michael Zeff
Carolyn Zeiss & Robert Contreras

Members (\$50 to \$99)

Sandra & Darr Aley
Liz Amini
Tim Baughman & Julie McMillan
Dick Bobo & Ann Sorgen
John Boesel & Arianna Van Meurs
Daniel & Alanna Brady
Kevin Buckholtz & Ruth Krueger
Bruce & Lynn Chatley
Ward & Melinda Ching
Janis & John Chittick
Ann Cognato
Patricia L. Cohn
Bill & Laura Conrow
Munzer Dajani
Don & Marlene Delong
Bill & Sarah Devlin
Roger Dickerson
Kelly Dwinells
Ken & Thana Fineman
Lynne & Michael Foster
Ken Frankel & Susan Nielsen
Daniel S. Fredrich
Rose E. Gehm
Misty Gibbs
Joy & Bruce Goldberg
Margie & David Guggenhime

Robert & Anne Hickey
Judith A. Hiltner
Stephen & Kathryn Hohenrieder
Nancy Wayne Holter
J. Patrick & Irene Hunt
Thomas M. Jackson & Kathleen Grant
Michael & Barbie John
Jeffrey & Carol Kuhn
Jack & Barbara Lake
Dana and Spencer Lee
Cynthia & Richard Livermore
John & Kate Lord
Doreen & Frank Malin
Marin Art & Garden Center,
Rhonda Campbell
Leroy & Esther Meshel
Dorothy Meyer
Joan Mickle
Doug & Michael Moore
Peter & Amanda Mortimer
Erin & Darius Mozaffarian
Geoff & Julian Nichol
Sarah Niehaus
Carol & Stepehn Nimelstein
Molly Noble and Bob Guilbault
Susan & Dan Ohlson
Garril Page
Drs. Diana & Francis Parnell
Ann & Dave Peterson
Steven & Kirsten Polsky
Christine Ramos
Arnell Rasiah
Kelley & Mary Reid
William H. Richardson
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Brian & Suzi Salmen
Robert & Diane Schneider
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Bill & Janet See
Pamela & Lacey Sher
Lyle Shlager & Andria Langenberg
John & Mary Siebel
Amy Skewes-Cox & Robert Twiss
Leo & Ingrid Stadnick
Tracy Stott & Richard Torney
Charlotte Sweeny
Dr. & Mrs. Robert C. Taylor
Eileen Thau
Herb & Nancy Tully
Kimberly Tully-Sutton
Barbara Van Meurs
Mazen & Nicole Wahbeh
William Whistler & Natalie Wilson
Judy Flannery & William Wiley
Phil Wolfson
Dorine Woods



ROSS PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 747
ROSS, CA 94957

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ROSS PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to ALL RESIDENTS and friends of the Ross community. We encourage all to attend our once-a-month meeting to voice opinions on Town matters.

We hope you will support the Association this year and help to insure that the RPOA continues its great tradition of service to the community.

Dues:

Best Friend of Ross: \$250 or more
Friend of Ross: \$100-\$249
Ross Resident: \$50 to \$99

Please make your check payable to:

Ross Property Owners' Association
and mail to:
RPOA, P.O. Box 747, Ross, CA 94957



2020 RPOA BOARD

(Left to right)

Mike Gillfillan, Iris Winey,
Jeff Koblick, Marcia Skall,
John Kieckhefer

Not pictured are:

Anne Hickey & Jacquié Osterman



ROSS PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSN.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2019

JEFF KOBlick
President, Box 776

MARCIA SKALL
Vice-President, Box 216

IRIS WINEY
Secretary, Box 1472

JOHN KIECKHEFER
Treasurer, Box 238

MIKE GILLFILLAN
Board Member, Box 1452

ANNE HICKEY
Board Member, Box 521

JACQUIÉ OSTERMAN
Board Member, Box 57

RossPropertyOwners.com

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Held the 2nd Thursday of the month in the Town Hall

RPOA MEETINGS

Held at 7:15 pm on the Monday preceding the
Town Council Meeting in the Town Hall

TOWN'S EMAIL

To join the Town's email list and receive Town notices,
contact Linda Lopez: llopez@townofross.org



Please visit RPOA's website to
view this newsletter and for more
information about our organization:
RossPropertyOwners.com