



# RPOA news

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

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### Mission

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

1961. Our mission is "to provide funds and services for the benefit of the general community of the Town of Ross." Through the financial support of its 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 immediately 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.

[www.RPOAross.org](http://www.RPOAross.org)

## ROSS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Ross Leadership Council meets every other month to bring together the leaders of the Town of Ross, Ross School, Branson School, Marin Art & Garden, and the Ross Property Owners' Association. The goal of the meeting is to improve communications among these groups and to help coordinate Town, School and Community activities and events.



**Members:** Michael McDowell (Superintendent), Josh Fisher (Board President), Jeff Koblick (RPOA), Joe Chinn (Town Manager), Katie Hoertkorn (Mayor), Diane Doodha (MAGC), Shana Lourdeaux/Sophie Gray (Ross Auxiliary), Erica Hunt (PTO President), Chris Ericksen (Financial Advisory Comm.), Bob Jacobson (Endowment Fund), Mike Armstrong (Ross Recreation Mgr.), Beth Sutro (Foundation President), Craig Slayen (Foundation VP), Patty Treadwell (Distinguished Senior Leader), Ned Pinger & Chris Mazzola (Branson School).

## RPOA commissioned Ross School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to design new winter banners!



The banners will be hung on the light poles in the Ross Commons. Under the direction of art teacher, Idie Weinsoff, the students designed several beautiful winter scenes of which 12 were selected.

The students really enjoyed this project and are looking forward to seeing their designs on the banners this winter.

A big **THANK YOU** goes to the following students whose drawings were selected:

- Cooper Herschfield-Cohen, 7<sup>th</sup> – Snow Covered Mountain
- Gia Fisher, 7<sup>th</sup> - A Cardinal in the Snow
- Gwen Kallmeyer, 7<sup>th</sup> – Footsteps in the Snow
- Skylar Solle, 7<sup>th</sup> – Family walking on a rainy day
- Romeo Torresi, 7<sup>th</sup> – A Scene of Birds at Night
- Siena Berry, 8<sup>th</sup> - Pine Cones
- Sam Blake, 8<sup>th</sup> - A Redwood Christmas Tree
- Ben Dannerbeck, 8<sup>th</sup> - A Lake Tahoe Scene
- Emma Giometti, 8<sup>th</sup> - A Small Cabin on a Hill with Stormy Clouds
- Kyla Gorham, 8<sup>th</sup> - A person holding a red umbrella in the snow
- Anais Gorek, 8<sup>th</sup> - An Owl
- Jared Lyon, 8<sup>th</sup> - An Evergreen Tree with a Mt. Tam Sunset



## JIM KEMP - Architect of Ross Design Review Board

RPOA would like to salute Jim Kemp for his years of service to Ross as he and his wife Linda head off on their next adventure. Jim and a few others formed the impetus for Ross' Design Review Board which has much improved communication in town and shortened the length of the Council meetings!

Jim got his master's degree in architecture at UC Berkeley and has worked in the Bay Area for the last 40+ years. Jim shared his practice with his twin brother, Jack, in Berkeley in the '70s and '80s; there were some volatile meetings between reactionaries and revolutionaries in the Berkeley City Council! Jim's years of addressing town councils and design review boards gave him a unique perspective on the value of having a design review board in Ross. He found it so interesting to understand the different personalities, the questions they ask and their separate agendas. That interest, along with his professional design training, has made design review work second nature to him.

In 1984, Jim and Linda moved to Ross to their present home. Jim and others felt Ross could greatly benefit from a design review board. The Council resisted this for many years, but in 2008 formed one with four design professionals, one person from the community and two alternates. From the professional applicants, four were chosen: Joey Buckingham, Mark Fritz, Jim Kemp and Dan Winey. This core group remains, finding the work rich and meaningful. Jim calls the group "simpatico" and one is struck by the strength of their relationships and the quiet, kind way they go about discussing the projects which come before them. None of the board's recommendations are requirements; many times applicants return repeatedly, but the results are always an improvement. Ross is very fortunate to have so much talent in one room; they bring a great deal of architectural knowledge which directly translates into a high level of design in keeping with the Ross guidelines. It's important of course that our town be beautiful, but the congenial atmosphere, neighbors sometimes meeting for the first time, make for a warm feeling of a small town functioning at a high level.

Jim and Linda have lived in Ross for 30 years; their three children, Scott, John and Kristina all went to Ross School. Since his retirement two years ago, Jim has taken up pastel landscapes which he has on display in San Anselmo at the Desta Gallery. With their move to Washington, he will have his own art studio near a lake where he can revive his love of fly fishing.

Thanks, Jim, for all you've given to Ross. May your next adventure be as idyllic as it sounds!

## BULLETIN BOARD KIOSKS & BIKE RACKS



Thanks to RPOA members' donations, the Town of Ross now has a new Bulletin Board and Bike Racks at the Ross Post Office. A second Bulletin Board will be installed at the corner of Lagunitas and Glenwood Drives.



Special thanks go to Dan Winey for the design and arranging for the Bulletin Boards to be custom built in Oregon. Thank you also to the Town of Ross staff (Joe, Heidi, Richard, Robert and Anthony) for helping to determine the proper locations and the installation.

## ROSS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Over the past two years, ***Michael McDowell*** has been at the helm of Ross School. Before arriving in Ross, Michael served Redwood, Tam, and Drake High Schools in the Tam District. During his time in Marin, he has had the true pleasure of working with students, parents, and educators in various communities in Marin County as well as raising two small children, Asher (1) and Harper (7) with his wife Quinn.

When asked about his experience at Ross School, Michael is all smiles. "I grew up in a small community in Oklahoma and love the family-centered nature of the school and the town. Having the opportunity to take Harper to school with me everyday, wave to all the kids as they walk to school, and engage with such a great staff and parent community that is 100% focused on the collective growth and support of children is just the perfect place for me. I couldn't ask for a better place to learn and lead."

When asked about what makes Ross School special, Michael is quick to remark that "Ross brings everything together. We invest in developing and nurturing relationships, bringing to bear the best instructional approaches and curricular experiences for students to deeply understand core knowledge and skills, and we are diligent in giving students every opportunity to apply their knowledge and express their character in real-world experiences. Ross is the ideal of a public school juxtaposing a whole child and whole community mindset into action."

When he is not at Ross School, Michael is an avid reader, runner, and writer and spends as much time as possible with his family.



## BRANSON SCHOOL HEADMASTER

Branson and Ross: Here's to another Century!



Here's to 100 and another 100 to grow on! The Branson School is about to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Centennial in 2020 and hopes to remain in its beautiful Ross campus for at least another 100 years.

"I am thrilled that we have made the decision to stay in Ross," said Head of School ***Chris Mazzola***, "and we look forward to engaging with our neighbors to plan Branson's future and how we can be good, helpful partners to the Town of Ross."

The Head of School is not the only one celebrating. The February 3 school newsletter opened with a campus photo and the header ***Home Sweet Home***, after the Board's decision to withdraw from exploring a site in Strawberry. The school had an outpouring of support from students, faculty, and alumni, all of whom consider the Ross campus to be their home and the repository of generations of happy memories. The feeling was so strong that the theme of the 2017 alumni video will be shots of campus and the title "Welcome Home."

We are excited to welcome a great new group of students from Ross to campus this fall.

ROSS POLICE DEPARTMENT



# POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT

APRIL 2017

Arrests	Month	YTD	Misc Activity	Month	YTD
Felony	0	0	Driving Under Influence	0	2
Misdemeanor	0	1	Peace Disturbance	5	15
<b>Citations</b>			Muni Code Violations	6	18
Parking Citations	42	52	Suspicious Circumstances	7	38
Moving Citations	9	26	Batteries/Assaults/Robberies	0	1
<b>Property Crimes</b>			911 Calls	6	23
Burglary	1	2	Alarm Activations	18	56
Burglary-Vehicles	0	0	Animal Complaints	1	7
Grand Theft	0	1	Lost/Found Property	3	11
Petty Theft	0	4	Medical Aid Calls	5	10
Vandalism	1	4	Mental Disturbance	0	2
<b>Traffic</b>			Trespassing	0	2
Injury	0	0	Juveniles Complaints/Offenses	4	8
Non-Injury	3	10	Civil-Domestic Disputes/Advice	8	44
Traffic/Parking Complaints	13	62	Drugs Offenses	0	0

Date	Location	Incident
04/08/2017	Shady lane	Driver arrested for DUI.
04/19/2017	SFDB	Attempted Commercial Burglary.



*This beautiful, flowering tree  
was planted and is cared for  
by the Ross Property Owners' Association  
in commemoration of Eddie Ahrens,  
long-time owner of Eddie's Grocery Store*

## MARIN SUSTAINABILITY

The Marin County Community Development Agency's Sustainability Team develops and promotes residential energy efficiency programs designed to help Marin residents save money, reduce carbon emissions, and improve home comfort. Feel free to browse the website ([www.marinsustainability.org](http://www.marinsustainability.org)) for program information or contact the office with any questions.

### California Youth Energy Services (CYES)

The CYES program is an easy and no-cost way to get started on energy efficiency in the home. During the summer months, college and high school-aged youth from Marin conduct "green house calls," which include energy and water evaluations and installation of LED light bulbs, power strips, and faucet aerators. Call [510\) 665-1501 ext. 5](tel:5106651501) to schedule your green house call this summer.

### Energy Upgrade California (r) Home Upgrade

Home Upgrade is a rebate program for homeowners looking to improve the efficiency and comfort in the home by installing new windows, upgrading the furnace, sealing/replacing ducts, improving insulation, and more. The total rebate for your project is based on how efficient you make your home. The more yearly energy saved, the higher the rebate. Right now, the Advanced Home Upgrade option can reach up to \$6,500. To learn more about the program, you can visit [www.bayareaenergyupgrade.org](http://www.bayareaenergyupgrade.org) or call a Home Upgrade Advisor at [\(866\) 878-6008](tel:8668786008).

These energy efficiency programs are funded by California utility rate payers under the auspices of the Public Utilities Commission. Their office can also organize no-cost educational seminars on the basics of going solar for homeowners or on electric heat pump technology.

They can help you save energy and money.

Questions? Contact: **Kellen Dammann**  
Sustainability Marketing and Outreach Specialist  
Marin County Community Development Agency  
(415) 473-2698 / [kdammann@marincounty.org](mailto:kdammann@marincounty.org)



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(866) 878-6008



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 of the Ross community, including those living in Kentfield within the Ross School border. We encourage all to attend the once-a-month meeting to voice your opinion 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.

General Membership Dues: \$25.00; Friends of the Ross Bear: \$100.00 or more (any amount over \$25.00 is tax deductible). Please make your check payable to: Ross Property Owners' Association and mail to: RPOA, P.O. Box 747, Ross, CA 94957.



**2017 RPOA BOARD**  
 (Left to right)  
 Iris Winey, Anne Hickey,  
 John Kieckhefer,  
 Diana Hammer, Jeff Koblick



**ROSS PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSN.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016**

**JEFF KOBICK**  
 President  
 Box 776

**ANNE HICKEY**  
 Vice-President  
 Box 216

**IRIS WINEY**  
 Secretary  
 Box 1472

**JOHN KIECKHEFER**  
 Treasurer  
 Box 238

**DIANA HAMMER**  
 Member-at-Large  
 Box 494

[www.RPOAross.org](http://www.RPOAross.org)

**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](mailto:llopez@townofross.org)



Please visit RPOA's website to view this newsletter and for more information about our organization:  
[www.RPOAross.org](http://www.RPOAross.org)

**Ross Post Office Box Holders:**

Many of you have contacted the RPOA about problems related to the U.S. Post Office. We have communicated these problems to the Postmaster.

Should you continue to have problems, please contact Rep. Jared Huffman's office at 415-258-9657 or email [Michelle.Garcilazo@mail.house.gov](mailto:Michelle.Garcilazo@mail.house.gov). They have been very helpful and want to hear from you directly.