



RPOA news

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

INSIDE

- Look What's New at the Ross Post Office...2
- Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program.....2
- First Friday Nights in Downtown Ross.....3
- Baywood Artists, Between Bay and Sky....3
- Pixie Park—Capital Improvements.....3
- Diane Doodha, Reviving the Marin Art & Garden Center4
- Branson School.....5
- RPOA Board Members.....Back
- RPOA Membership Info.....Back
- RPOA Town Council Meetings.....Back

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

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING TO KITTLE PARK

Over 125 years ago, in 1890, the Kittle family donated the vacant plot of land at the intersection of Lagunitas Road and Sir Francis Drake to the Town of Ross. The lot was named "Kittle Park" in their honor. Over the last few decades, Kittle Park was left alone to grow wildly. Several members of the RPOA thought that Kittle Park could be turned into a spectacular, natural green entrance to the Town of Ross.



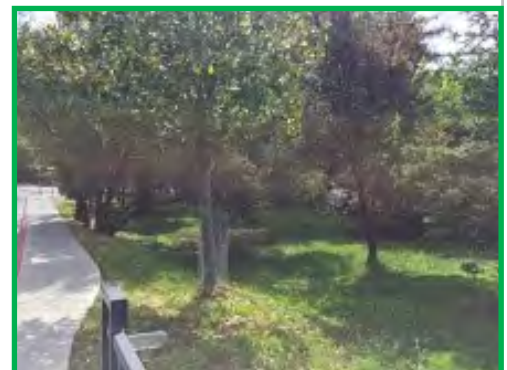
Last year in Phase 1 of this project, the RPOA funded a cleanup of Kittle Park to remove dead trees and prune back other non-native trees and shrubs. Ross resident and Landscape Architect Cynthia Zak Livermore volunteered her help in this project. Ross resident Eric Wagner of Beaver Tree Service did the pruning and cleanup at a substantially reduced rate.



For Phase 2, the Town of Ross is very fortunate to have Ross resident Janell Hobart, a landscape designer with Denler Hobart Gardens, who has donated many hours of her time designing a landscape plan. Janell has also arranged with Tree Masters to do additional clean up, pruning and stump removal work at Kittle Park, all at no charge to the Town.

The above proposed plan shows a native meadow, seeded with wildflowers and planted with seasonal bulbs, surrounded by native oak trees and other evergreen understory trees and shrubs. A soft grassy path through the meadow will allow people to walk through nature on their way to the Ross Post Office, Ross School, MAGC or the bus stop.

The newly landscaped Kittle Park will require minimal ongoing upkeep. The next step is to get feedback on this plan from the Ross Town staff, residents and Town Council. We look forward to hearing from you!





Look What's New at the Ross Post Office!



The Ross Post Office has a new Postmaster - Anabella Serrano, and assistant Jingle Carrillo. Remarkably these two women are managing the Ross Post Office until a third open position is filled next month, and a fourth person will be added in the Fall. Not only are they efficiently distributing our mail, as one Ross resident exclaimed, "Jingle knows my name and my post office box number by memory, even though she just met me briefly."

Postmaster Anabella Serrano – Ana has worked for the United States Postal Service for 35 years. She worked as a letter carrier in San Francisco for 30 years. Ana lives in Richmond and has two grown sons. On her days off, she spends her time taking walks, sewing and recently started to quilt. Ana expressed how much she enjoys working in the Ross Post Office. She exclaimed, "I love this hometown feel. I especially love seeing the delightful faces of the children. I just love the Ross community. Everyone is so nice!"

Jingle Carrillo – Jingle has worked for the United States Postal Service for three years. Her initial job was at the Petaluma main post office plant and later worked for the Novato and San Anselmo post offices. She is extremely competent in sorting out the mail and packages, and remembers everyone's names and post office box numbers. Jingle lives in Novato with her husband. She loves to travel and enjoys hiking, riding her bike and scuba diving. Most of her family resides in the Philippines.

Updates from the Ross Post Office:

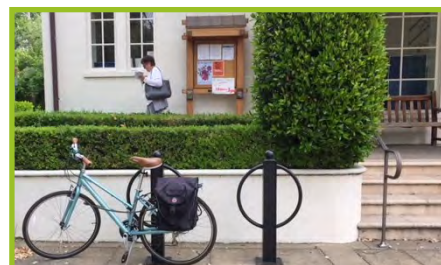
Post Office Box Charges – Every Ross resident without street delivery is provided with a free 4"X 6" post office box. Recently, a new U.S. Postal Service policy mandated that fees be charged on all larger P.O. boxes for all customers (Ross residents and non-residents).

Packages – For packages, have the shipper write both your street address and Post Office box number (i.e., 5 Hill Road, #776) on the package to ensure delivery. Ross Post Office will keep packages up to 20 days.

First Class Mail – Mail delivery is in mailboxes by 1:00 pm Monday-Friday.

How can you help? There is a shortage of storage space in the back of the Post Office, so please pick up your mail and packages regularly and fill out a vacation hold (yellow card on the right side of the counter) when going out of town.

Photo of Ross Post Office with New Bulletin Board and Bike Racks



Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program



The overall objective of the Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program is to substantially reduce the frequency and severity of flooding throughout the Ross Valley Watershed. The Town of Ross is part of Zone 9 which includes those towns and unincorporated communities that are closely aligned with the Corte Madera Creek Watershed. The proposed project is divided into two phases. Phase 1 would potentially provide flood reduction benefits by (1) removing the wooden fish ladder in Ross that constricts flow, (2) widening the channel to hold more water by removing portions of the concrete channel to create flood plains and a riparian corridor at Frederick Allen Park and (3) installing flood walls adjacent to the banks for stabilization. The potential Phase 2

measures are currently being evaluated and will be released in the draft environmental documents.

The Flood Control Zone 9 Advisory Board met on March 20, 2018. Minutes from the meeting are available at www.marinwatersheds.org. Anyone interested in receiving emails with announcements and information on upcoming events and meetings will find a sign up at the website. The Marin County Board of



Supervisors has taken the next step toward formally reallocating a \$7.6 million California Department of Water Resources grant to the



Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management project described above, which has an estimated cost of \$13.5 million for Phase 1. The draft environmental document is anticipated in June 2018, followed by a 45-day public comment period. The next Advisory Board meeting is tentatively scheduled at 6:30 pm June 19, 2018, at a location to be determined.



First Friday Nights in Downtown Ross

Don't forget to attend the First Friday Night fun event in downtown Ross through the summer!

We'll bet there are businesses there you don't know exist! There's a new clothing store with beautifully handmade, hand-dyed clothes; there's a new housewares store; there is even the "Mind Tank" where you can go and rent a conference room or a space to do your work!

There are two art galleries—including a new one with sculpture.

FOOD, DRINK, BALLOONS, FACE PAINTING TOO!

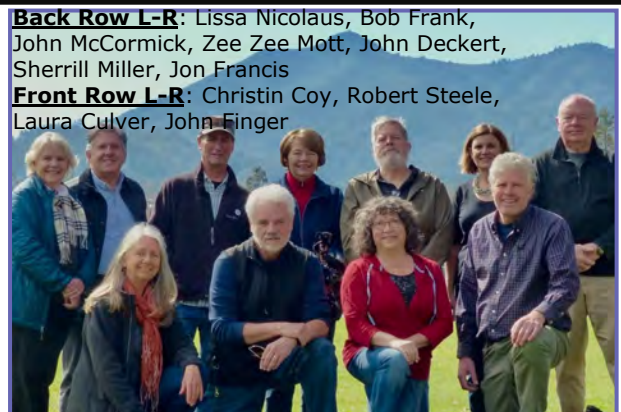
Plus it's just plain fun seeing all the kids and your friends.



BayWood Artists BETWEEN BAY AND SKY

Once again the BayWood Artists paint Mt. Tam to support One Tam and their programs which maintain and preserve Marin County's beloved Mt. Tamalpais. This year's fine art show will feature over 100 paintings which capture the beauty of the mountain and the surrounding landscape. The artists will contribute 50% of the proceeds of all art sold to support One Tam programs which protect Marin County's treasured resource, Mt. Tamalpais.

The Between Bay and Sky Art Show opens on Friday, October 12, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. It continues Saturday, October 13, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at The Studio, Marin Art & Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Ross. Admission is free.



Back Row L-R: Lissa Nicolaus, Bob Frank, John McCormick, Zee Zee Mott, John Deckert, Sherrill Miller, Jon Francis

Front Row L-R: Christin Coy, Robert Steele, Laura Culver, John Finger

PIXIE PARK – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Mrs. Terwilliger and the American Association of University Women founded Pixie Park in 1952, as a safe place to play for the children of volunteers who were working at Marin Art & Garden Center (MAGC). Membership grew to 150 families within a few years. Now, 65 years later, members of the Park are trying to raise \$425,000 for much needed improvements not only to Pixie Park, but also to support and maintain MAGC as well.

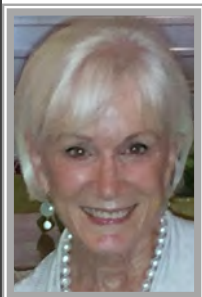
For a detailed description of the proposed improvements and to donate, please visit: rebuildpixie.org (Pixie is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and is tax deductible).

Anyone can become a member of Pixie Park which has different types of memberships and an array of annual events. The events include Pixie Socials on St. Patrick's Day, Valentine's Day, Dad's Day, an Autumn Social, Holiday Bake Sale, and the infamous Pixie Park Spring Fair which welcomes over 2,500 children each year. Open houses are every second Saturday of each month from 10:30 a.m. until noon.

Pixie Park is a very special place for children six years of age and under. It is a safe place for them to discover their individuality and make some of their very first friends. The park is unique in that it is gated and requires a key to get in and out, thereby ensuring that children will not leave without their parent's knowledge.

"The environment itself had to speak to the kids. It's not just assembling a bunch of athletic equipment. You have to catch their imagination, you think about things like crawling, hiding, mystery, color, texture, line...all the things that would appeal to children," Robert Royston, Pixie Park Landscape Architect circa 1958.





Diane Doodha, Reviving the Marin Art & Garden Center

Ross resident Diane Doodha recently received a coveted award, "Excellence in Board Leadership" from the Center for Volunteer Non-Profit Leadership for 2017. She has been credited with leading the Marin Art & Garden Center (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization) Board of Trustees in the revitalization of the organization that in 2012 was in danger of permanently shutting down. Rumors were rampant including speculation the property would be sold for development. Diane felt strongly that the 11 acres of historic land with its cherished history should be preserved, believing it to be an irreplaceable treasure.



The Marin Art & Garden Center is part of the old Kittle Estate and was initially saved from development in 1941. Caroline Livermore (it's always the women!) gets credit for a postwar vision of gardens, conservation, arts, and education for Marin families. The Center opened in July of 1945 as the country, freed from war, looked to the return of its men and women. MAGC was dedicated as a living memorial honoring those who had given their lives in service of their country. In the '40s, '50s and '60s, the Marin County Fair (called the Marin Art & Garden Fair) was held at MAGC. It was home to arts and performing groups as well as fundraising auxiliaries and Pixie Park. Over the years, what began as a community endeavor saw the individual resident groups turning inward and the overall vision and direction were murky.



Diane became the President of the Marin Art & Garden Center Board of Trustees in 2011. By 2012, it was evident to her that the operating infrastructure of MAGC was not sustainable. The organization was bankrupt and in need of triage. Diane, along with fellow board member Nanette Londeree of Novato, supported by equally dedicated board members (it takes a village) worked as unpaid Co-Executive Directors for 3½ years to stabilize, make sustainable, and transition the organization. By October of 2015, MAGC was positioned to hire Antonia Adezio to fulfill the role of Executive Director. One need only walk through MAGC to see the results. MAGC is poised to retake its place as a Marin destination site.

A perusal of the MAGC website reveals a resurgence of mission-related programs; the venue is popular for weddings and memorials; the grounds are stunning. After having completed an historic site survey and cultural history, a Master Plan is underway.

The community is rediscovering MAGC, from its buildings designed by such eminent architects as Gardner Daley and Reynolds to its exquisite gardens. The Free Family Summer Concerts, Children's Summer Education Programs and the Annual Harvest Dinner are community favorites and community support is growing with a Leadership Circle of Donors who share the MAGC vision.

**MAGC will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 2020.
A year of special events is in the planning phase.**

We can be thankful that Diane has saved this community gem with many helpers, of course. As she says, "Find something worth doing, be willing to do the work, be patient, thoughtful, intentional."

Diane has lived in Ross since 1978 with her husband Frank. They have been active, dynamic contributors to the Ross community.



Gardening Class at MAGC



BRANSON SCHOOL

Recently, Branson Head of School, Chris Mazzola, and Branson Board of Trustees President, Claudia Lewis, spoke with the RPOA Board at the public meeting on May 7, 2018 about Branson's desire to increase student enrollment. Below is an excerpt from their written statement. Of note, RPOA does not take a position on issues that come before the Town Council or the Town residents:

"As Branson and Ross have grown hand in hand these past 100 years, our futures are inextricably linked. While we look back at our remarkable time together, we also turn our focus forward to consider the importance of this relationship and the role that our legacy institution must play as an anchor for this community to help support a successful and vibrant tomorrow for everyone.

That is why we are coming before you today. To preserve the promise of our shared prosperity, Branson is seeking to recommit ourselves to the Town of Ross, pledging our continued longevity to this extraordinary community and asking the Town's residents for approval to grow our enrollment over the coming years. A modest increase of 80 to 120 students over time will allow our school to keep pace with 21st Century learning, and importantly, create inclusive pathways to world-class education for a more diverse and healthy student body.

As we enlist your input, we want you to know that our #1 goal is to preserve the essential fabric of this community and see how we can better serve it. To this end, we will be developing meaningful and enduring partnerships that benefit families in Ross. Sitting down with Ross School, neighborhood leaders, and local organizations, we will draft agreements that everyone can be proud of, providing greater enrichment and lasting connectivity for our community. We will also work with the Town Council on a thoughtful strategy that ensures we give back to a town that has given so much to us.

We are willing to invest in this community and be attentive to its needs. Branson is conducting an update to our biannual traffic study commissioned to thoroughly address the legitimate concerns of our neighbors and make certain we mitigate any potential disruptions. Currently, we host a pick-up and drop-off shuttle program situated away from campus, encourage carpooling, dedicate vans for students traveling far distances, and provide physical monitoring on Norwood and surrounding streets to hold students, parents, and visitors accountable. We will be looking at new options and how we might make traffic calming measures already in place even more robust and effective for Ross, limit our overall impact on the community, and prioritize issues of traffic, speeding and safety. Your engagement in this process is valuable to us. As we incorporate your feedback, we sincerely ask for your support, and that of your family, friends and neighbors."

Please feel free to reach out directly to the Branson School, should you have questions or suggestions.



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: \$35; Friends of the Ross Bear: \$100 or more (any amount over \$35 is tax deductible). Please make your check payable to: Ross Property Owners' Association and mail to:
 RPOA, P.O. Box 747, Ross, CA 94957.



Please visit RPOA's website to view this newsletter and for more information about our organization:
www.RPOAross.org



2018 RPOA BOARD

(Left to right)

Mike Gillfillan, Marcia Skall,
 Jeff Koblick, Diana Hammer,
 John Kieckhefer, Iris Winey
 [Not pictured is Anne Hickey]

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



ROSS PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSN.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018

JEFF KOBICK
 President, Box 776

ANNE HICKEY
 Vice-President, Box 216

IRIS WINEY
 Secretary, Box 1472

JOHN KIECKHEFER
 Treasurer, Box 238

DIANA HAMMER
 Board Member, Box 494

MIKE GILLFILLAN
 Board Member, Box 1452

MARCIA SKALL
 Board Member, Box 521

www.RPOAross.org