



# 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. 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 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)

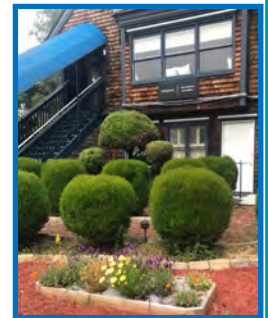
## ROSS DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION



Thanks to the stimulus of Sally Newsom and the Ross Merchant Association, there have been some changes made and some in the works, to make downtown Ross more beautiful. The RPOA and the merchants have learned a great deal about what is possible. The RPOA thought it would be nice to have uniform side-

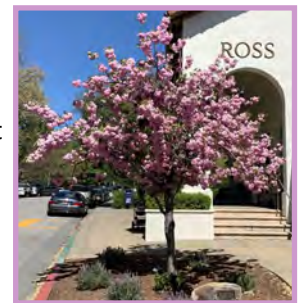


walks as in Bon Air Center with pavers or at least uniform concrete, only to find out the merchants are responsible for repairing the sidewalks and taking care of the area in front of their stores. Everyone liked the idea of flower baskets hanging from the poles as in San Anselmo and Larkspur. A closer look at the sidewalks however indicated there was only enough room on the street for one pole with baskets at the small park next to the Ross Garage;



the rest of the sidewalks are too narrow to support more hanging baskets. Do take a look at the baskets on your next trip to downtown; they are indeed beautiful!

After looking at many possible improvements, the RPOA decided to be responsible for upgrading the light pole across the street from Ross Nails. We will be replacing two incongruous cement poles with one that matches the more classic style. In addition, we will be working with the Town to install a new light pole between the Post Office and 3 Ross Common. The three light poles will be a donation to the Town of \$20,000. The present light poles have been repaired and improved; some of the trees were cut back so the light would shine through. Joe Chinn and Robert Maccario have been instrumental with this entire process.



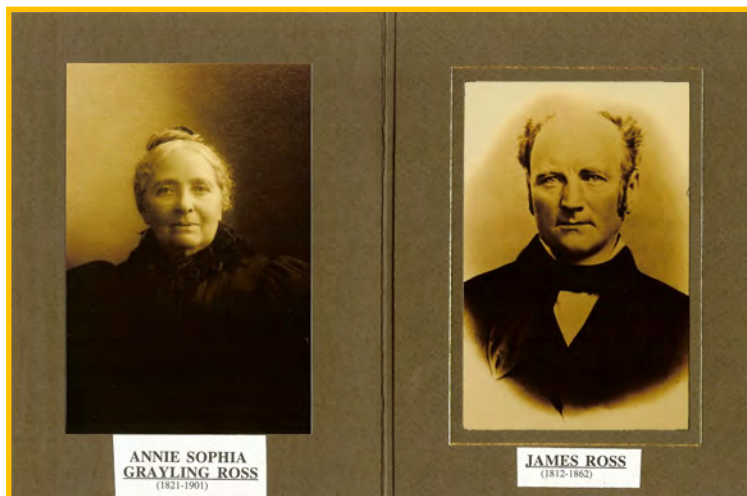
Talking to the shop owners and meeting with them and Town officials has stimulated some positive change. The building which houses Café Ross will have a new tenant, Shelly Cahan, a designer who has approval from the Design Review Board to put up a new awning and signage which will upgrade that area.

At least one building in downtown is on the market and one has recently sold. Hopefully with new ownership there will be an effort to improve the storefronts and maybe even the sidewalks.

We are looking for new ways to improve downtown. If you have any ideas, please pass them along to RPOA!



## **THE HISTORY OF JAMES ROSS**



The original owners of the area now called the Town of Ross were James and Annie Ross. The following history was provided to us by Thomas Ross Perry. James and Annie were his great-great-great grandparents.

James Ross was born near Inverness, Scotland in the year 1812. After traveling to Tasmania and Australia, he arrived in San Francisco in 1849, where he prospered as an importer of lumber and liquor during the boom years of the Gold Rush.

James Ross parlayed his business success into the purchase of the ***Punta de Quentin y Canada de San Anselmo*** – one of the original Mexican land grants. This 8,870-acre parcel stretched from Point San Quentin, to the top of Red Hill, across to the Meadow Club Golf Course, to the top of Mount Baldy, through the MMWD watershed, to the top of Baltimore Canyon, and down into Larkspur. The property continued through College of Marin and back to Point San Quentin.

The Town of Ross stands today in what was the heart of this land grant. James Ross settled here in Ross in 1857 at what is now 111 Redwood Road.

James Ross passed in 1862. His wife, Annie Grayling Ross, survived him until 1901. She also survived her son James, who had died in 1875 while serving as Marin County Supervisor. In 1882, Annie Ross bequeathed property to the railroad with the stipulation that the stop be named "Ross Station."

This railroad stop, located where the Ross Post Office is now, gave the Town of Ross its name. Mrs. Ross also donated the land across from Ross Town Hall on Lagunitas Road on which the first church in Ross, the "San Anselmo Chapel," was constructed in 1889.

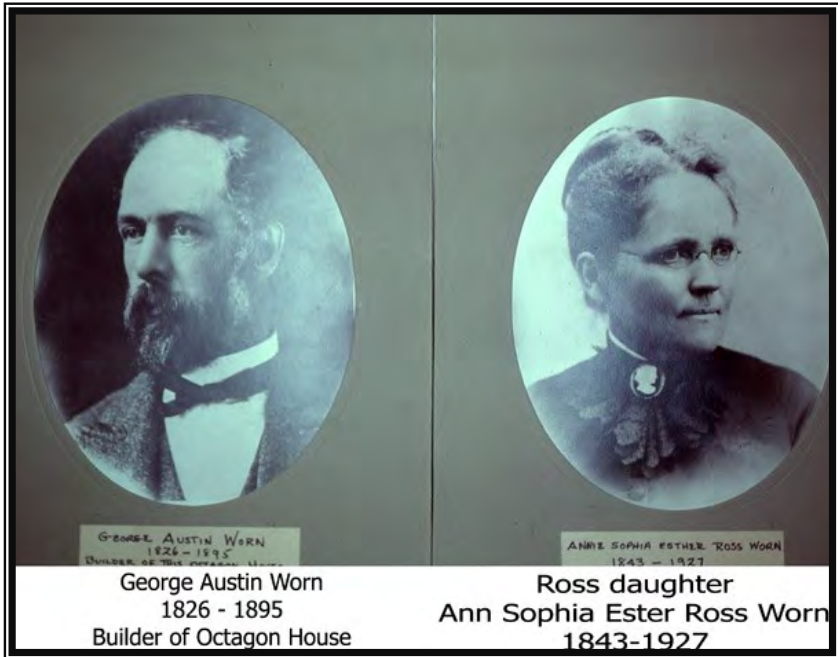
George Worn, who immigrated from Ireland to San Francisco in 1849, worked as James Ross' accountant and soon thereafter wed the Rosses' daughter Annie. They built their family home on what is now the grounds of the Marin Art and Garden Center, and named their home "Sunnyside." The Worns first lived in the Octagon House, which now houses the Moya Library at MAGC, during the construction of their Sunnyside home.

The Ross family and their descendants brought to this land the energy and vision that helped make the Town of Ross the special community we live in.

***Thomas Ross Perry, May 2019***



**THE HISTORY OF JAMES ROSS  
(Continued)**



First Church in Ross  
built in 1881 at Kittle Park  
across from Ross Town Hall



Ross train station in early 1900s,  
now the Ross Post Office location



The "Sunnyside" home built by  
the Worns in the 1880s



## Ross Community Supports RPOA

The Ross Property Owners Association (RPOA) was established in 1961 by a group of Ross citizens who sought to provide funds and services for the benefit of the general community of the Town of Ross. The ongoing support from the community has been amazing and through annual contributions from its members, the RPOA has been able to contribute to a variety of projects that make our Town so special. ***More than 325 Ross households contribute to the RPOA every year.***

These projects are both small and large, from providing dog bags to keep the Commons clean, the seasonal Town banners and July 4<sup>th</sup> decorations, to contributions to street lighting, landscaping, and drinking fountains at Natalie Coffin Park. Additionally, the RPOA seeks to keep its members informed through newsletters and monthly emails, as well as enabling events like First Aid Preparedness classes at Ross School. With a basic membership of \$35, everyone in Town can participate and the RPOA has benefited from almost 50% of its membership contributing much more. There is a deep appreciation to all members for helping the RPOA contribute to our unique community.

## ALERT MARIN

In Marin County, the "Alert Marin" notification system is the ONLY official evacuation notification system in Marin and is used by all fire and law enforcement agencies in order to make emergency and evacuation notifications. It will alert you in situations such as flooding, earthquakes, severe weather, missing persons and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods. Please note that you will NOT receive routine notifications whenever the fire department responds to a fire in your neighborhood. It is not intended as a general public information source. The system will be used only when there is a threat or need for evacuation or to send critical information to a specific geographical area. In order to receive these time-sensitive messages you need to register your phone(s) and address at [www.alertmarin.org](http://www.alertmarin.org). You can specify to receive messages at home, mobile or business phones, email address and/or by text message.

A feature being offered now is a test notification to ensure the system is working properly. To do so, log in to your Alert Marin account to verify your contact information and send a test alert. You can also configure Alert Marin's contact number (415-473-6376) to use your smartphone's "Emergency Bypass" mode to allow ringing even when your phone is set to silent.

**For more information visit [www.alertmarin.org](http://www.alertmarin.org)**



## Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project

In late November 2018, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District received approximately 65 comments/letters from the public regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement. Review of the public comments revealed the need for additional analysis of the proposed alternatives in order to ensure that the comments are adequately addressed to maintain compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as well as additional time to meet Federal requirements and timelines. District staff reviewed the feasibility of pursuing a more locally controlled project referred to as Phase 1, which could include flood risk mitigation, ecosystem restoration, improved fish passage for endangered species, and recreational enhancements. Core samples from the concrete channel of Corte Madera Creek were taken and property boundaries were surveyed. The District staff used public input, additional evaluation of the Phase 1 project concept and governmental reports to develop a redefined project concept that was presented to the Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board at the May 23, 2019 meeting. The District Staff Report and slide presentation were very comprehensive. While much of the information focused on the Lower Corte Madera Creek, the staff and consultants covered issues that were inclusive of the other areas including Ross, San Anselmo, and Fairfax. Pertaining to Ross, the Town is continuing to work with their contractor on the replacement of the Winship Avenue Bridge. District staff are recommending that the Board of Supervisors extend the existing Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Ross and the Flood Control District (for the Winship Avenue Bridge project) to 12/31/24. The full staff report and slide program can be found at:



**[http://www.marinwatersheds.org/about-us/events-meetings/  
advisory-board-meeting-zone-9-ross-valley-25](http://www.marinwatersheds.org/about-us/events-meetings/advisory-board-meeting-zone-9-ross-valley-25)**





## ***Natalie Coffin Greene Park Renovation Nearly Complete***

The Town of Ross has almost completed the renovation of the Three Bear Hut and the picnic area at Natalie Coffin Greene Park near Phoenix Lake.

The photos show the renovation of the Three Bear Hut. There will also be new picnic tables, pathways and benches for classroom-like teaching.

This approximately \$400,000 project is funded primarily by the Town of Ross, along with a private contribution from a resident. The RPOA is contributing towards the installation of new bike racks for the picnic area.





## Two Historic Plaques Re-Discovered

### *Kittle Park Plaque*

The Kittle Park historic plaque is buried under about 6" of dirt and the much deeper "discovery" hole was refilled to avoid creating a safety hazard. To bring the plaque back to the surface will require excavation and fill, and likely some engineering to keep it above grade. Historic photos indicate that it is mounted on a large rock. Stay tuned for plans for the restoration of this plaque and all of Kittle Park!

### *San Anselmo Chapel Plaque*

About a month ago, the long-lost/missing San Anselmo Chapel plaque dated 1881 was re-discovered at Kittle Park across from the Ross Town Hall. This historic plaque was discovered by past Ross resident Guy Clow and has been documented by Richard Torney for the Ross Historical Society. Also found in the park is an antique rose bush still surviving after many years of neglect. The rose is in bloom right now, but not much longer for this season.





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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS:**

**Monday, July 8, 2019**

***Please join us at 7:15 PM***

***Ross Town Hall***

## 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-\$199; Best Friends of the Ross Bear: \$200 and more.

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

The RPOA would like to thank Diana Hammer for her many years of service on the RPOA Board. We wish her well on her new traveling adventures!



### 2019 RPOA BOARD

(Left to right)

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

[Not pictured is Anne Hickey]



## ROSS PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSN.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2019

JEFF KOBICK  
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

[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)