



Police Chief, Erik Masterson

POLICE CHIEF, ERIK MASTERSON

Emanating enthusiasm and acumen, our charismatic new police chief, Erik Masterson, arrives in Ross each morning at 6:00 am. "I now have real engagement with residents, an experience that was rare when I was in the larger jurisdiction of San Rafael." Besides having the chance to know each resident, Chief Masterson also appreciates the opportunity to lead a safe community.

Erik, as he likes to be called, lives in Petaluma with his wife, Jennifer, and sons, Devin and Jeremy. In his family life, Erik relishes the fulfilling experiences he has with his sons as their Scoutmaster. Hmmmm...Scouts, nature, athletics, joie de vivre...all seem to culminate in our chief's propensity to ride his mountain bike around town so that he's visible and aware of what's happening.

Our police chief brings to our community a palpable sense of vitality, knowledge, trust-worthiness and gregariousness. Each resident has the opportunity to meet him, "shoot the breeze", and express concerns each Tuesday morning around 9:30 am at "Café on the Common". He's highly approachable.

When asked, "What are your messages to our residents," Erik replied, "Because Ross residents live in such a wonderful community, we are its keepers. We need to act cohesively and sanely to protect it. I believe we can do this by:

- 1) Calling the police immediately if you recognize that something is amiss.
- 2) Taking all precautions at home, in your neighborhood, and while driving to be safe and prevent crimes.
- 3) Introducing yourself to me; "I'm eager to meet and know every resident."

Besides his intrinsic "M.O." to provide public safety to our town, Chief Masterson has outlined supplemental goals he hopes to achieve: know all residents; police officers will always be engaged with residents; police officers will be provided opportunities to learn new techniques from larger jurisdictions; and the department will gain more effective techniques for ensuring town safety.

Meeting Chief Erik Masterson one knows he and his officers will achieve them.

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MISSION

The Ross Property Owners Association (RPOA) has been representing Ross Residents for over 30 years. 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.

6TH ANNUAL TOWN DINNER

SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

The 6th Annual Town Dinner venue was held on Ross Common (closed to traffic) in front of the Post Office. Three long rows of green, linen-clad tables, set the tone along with party lights strung high above the tables. The reservations numbered 720 people, but it could have been more. The Artful Codger Band enhanced the festive atmosphere and the Ross School parents thanked the community for their support by providing a delicious array of desserts.

Rosanna Lourdeaux, Chief of Protocol, thanks the Police Department for making the road closure seem effortless. The town also thanks Linda Lopez for her

assistance in getting the word out, Peter and Jen Daly of Stuart Rentals for the party lights, tables, chairs and the set up, along with Wendy Battey, Ann Peterson, Cynthia Wollam for their help with the dinner.





BOB HEMATI

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Living in Marin County for thirty years, our new Public Works Director, Bob Hemati, has enjoyed raising his family in our paradisiacal community. Bob and his wife, Noushin, have a son, Nickon, who works in the technology industry in San Francisco and a daughter, Kat, who works for the Organization for International Cooperation.

As an engineer, Bob previously worked in the private sector developing commercial and high-end residential developments. He also owned a similar business with Noushin, an architect. As our Public Works Director, Bob enjoys the multi-faceted layers of projects that he undertakes now in the public sector. "Heading the Public Works Department here is the culmination of all of my previously acquired professional skills. Now I wear a lot of different hats. Every day is new, varied and interesting."

Driving a short distance to his office each morning, Bob appreciates both the short commute, the absence of travel that this job entails, and the opportunity to serve the community he's lived in for many years.

Bob has two main goals for himself: to make the present Public Works system more efficient and to streamline our ordinances. Once hired, Bob immediately began computerizing our systems for project management and updating the ordinances. Both new online systems allow residents to check on their residential projects efficiently. With these new systems of documents, procedures, and timelines, Bob hopes the process is more clear and attainable.

How fortunate we are to have Bob as our new Public Works Director.

From the desk of Tom Vallee, Fire Chief

WINTER IS HERE --ARE YOU READY?

Winter is almost upon us and we could be in for a wet rainy season. The time to prepare is now. The Ross Fire Department would like to remind residents to be aware of winter hazards and prepare for them by:

- 1) Checking trees for broken or weak limbs
- 2) Staying clear of all downed power lines
- 3) Staying out of standing or moving water

In the event of a possible flooding emergency, the siren at the Fire Station will be activated to warn you of an emergency condition and will run for **3 minutes** and may be repeated several times. **THIS SIGNAL MEANS FLOODING IS IMMINENT OR OCCURRING.** Move yourself, your family, pets and your vehicles to higher ground!

Obviously, you shouldn't wait for the emergency siren before considering the likelihood of a flood. Keep informed by listening to TV and radio weather reports and internet weather information. You can even follow the level of the Corte Madera Creek online at <http://marin.onerain.com/home.php>.

The Town will also activate the **MEANS (Marin Emergency Automated Notification System)**. This system contacts all devices (phones, email, cell phones) registered by Town citizens with a recorded message announcing emergency information. If you are not already registered, please go online to the Town of Ross website (www.townofross.org), click on Public Safety, scroll to Community Preparedness, and click on the notification tab for information on how to submit your information.

In the event of an emergency, please dial **911** rather than reporting an emergency to any of the local numbers for the Town of Ross. Please make sure your street number is posted and visible (minimum 4-inch numbers on a contrasting background) so our Fire, Police and Ross Valley Paramedics can find you in an emergency.

Prepare your family to be completely self sufficient for up to **72 hours**. Water, food, flashlights, an emergency radio and medications, etc...should be in a readily accessible area.

Check the Town web page for information on **CERT (Community Emergency Response Training)** course. If you would like to help your neighborhood, volunteer to be a Block Captain. As always, do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns or for information on how to become a Block Captain. Thank you for being prepared.

Tom Vallee, Fire Chief

MERCHANTS' HIGHLIGHTS



SILHOUETTE HAIR STUDIO

30 Ross Common

Silhouette Hair Studio, owned by Roger Kwok, is one of the oldest businesses in Ross. Always cheerful and friendly, he has been styling and coloring hair (from mod to traditional) for men, women, and children for 23 years and is now seeing the third generation of many of his clients!! He loves the small town atmosphere in Ross as well as being part of the Ross "downtown" merchant community.

Silhouette (the name from a phrase in a favorite novel "the silhouette swept across the hallway") Hair Studio hours are 9 am to 7 pm five days a week. He is closed Thursday and Sundays, however, Roger has been known to come early or stay late to meet the schedules of his valued clients. Silhouette Hair Studio 30 Ross Common, (415) 461-8808.

SANDBAGS

As in the past, the Town has placed a stockpile of sand and sandbags at the entrance to Natalie Coffin Green Park. Please help yourself. It is best to fill and place these bags before the storm arrives. Page 39 of the GET READY manual that describes and illustrates the proper method.



ALEXA BOESEL

TEENAGE HUMANITARIAN

"Our future is in the hands of our children." If our future is represented by teenage Ross resident Alexa Boesel, we can be certain it will be compassionate, earnest, have greater opportunity for equality, and be blindingly brilliant.

Daughter of John Boesel and Arianna Van Meurs, Alexa appreciates that her parents inspired her to be a humanitarian. "They placed a lot of importance on acting to help others, and finding joy and happiness in focusing outwards. I find joy in striving to help others and the environment." Currently a senior at The Branson School, Alexa attended Ross School and Marin Country Day School. Presently Alexa leads Sustainable Seas, a group monitoring the rocky intertidal for proof of climate change; leads BETA, Branson for the Ethical Treatment of Animals; and leads three other Branson students at the Tenderloin Childcare Center.

Alexa volunteered for The Tenderloin Childcare Center while an eighth grader at M.C.D.S. The Center serves homeless parents and those escaping abusive situations. It provides both daycare while parents look for employment or go to their jobs, and also provides instruction on effectively caring for their children. "I work in the infant room teaching the children to do basic motor skills and feeding them their bottles when it's nap time; I read the older children a story. I feel fulfilled seeing how well the children are growing and learning. Recently, Benji, who was an infant when I started volunteering and is now in pre-school, told me "I love you," in Cantonese, English, Spanish, Japanese, and Mandarin. How powerful is that?"

"Living in Ross, it is hard to truly understand the different realities that many others face. We can understand that other lifestyles exist, but until you actually live or work alongside it, it is hard to have a truly profound understanding of the true inequity. Not only do you meet wonderful people, but you have a new appreciation for all that you take for granted in your daily life. You relearn to respect and be grateful for all the little things in your life, and it improves your own quality of life."

Should you be interested in volunteering, please contact Alexa at alexa_boesel@branson.org. "I would love to have more Ross residents get involved. The center is really looking for dedicated volunteers who would come for more than a few hours a day, and for more than a few days in a row."

COMMUNITY EVENTS

ROSS VALLEY PLAYERS

"To Kill a Mockingbird" Thursday - Sundays
November 11 - December 11

"She Stoops To Conquer" January 19 - February 19 2012

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

Monday, December 5th, 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
on Ross Common by the Ross Rec Auxiliary

GARDEN SOCIETY OF MARIN

Greens Sale - Friday & Saturday, December 9th - 10th

PIXIE PARENTS

Pixie Park Bake Sale and Santa Pictures
Saturday December 10th.

MAGC

First Annual Holiday Party - Saturday December 10th.

TOUR de NOEL CHRISTMAS TOUR

Saturday, December 10th, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm



HAROLD ENGLE

RESPECTED ROSS RESIDENT

Born in Ross Hospital in 1934, Harold Engle experienced an idyllic childhood in Ross. Living on Hill Drive, he and his best friend, Matt Haseltine, who lived two doors away, were typical of the bright, nature-loving, neighborhood pals who created games, pushed their one-gear Schwinn bikes to the top of Mount Tam for an exhilarating ride down, and felt fulfilled by spending months building a clubhouse with \$8 of lumber. For Harold, those simple neighborhood activities, such as playing in the self-built tree house, seem invident now.

Mr. Engle was one of the first students in the “new” Ross School. Built in 1939, initially first and second grades were in the current Woods’ house on Shady Lane. Other grades were in Mrs. Mordecaj’s house (now Ms. Barbara Call’s) on Redwood Drive.

After serving in the Army, Harold met his wife-to-be, Pat, during college at USC. Mr. and Mrs. Engle moved back to Ross to start their family life. In 1965 they built their house on Morrison Drive, a few hundred yards from where he grew up. They were blessed with two children, Matthew and Elizabeth. Most fathers and sons were part of the Boy/Eagle Scouts. Typical of the fulfilling experiences that Scouting brought, Harold and his son, Matt, relished the 100-mile hiking trips in the Sierras. The love of nature, building character and tenacity by solving problems that arose, and the camaraderie with the other Ross fathers and sons were meaningful experiences. Now, Mr. Engle’s son Matthew lives in Ross and his daughter Elizabeth lives in Ventura.

“Our foliage, mixture of home styles, and friends” are the elements of Ross that Mr. Engle savors when he returns home from a trip. Yet, with the expanded houses and organized sports/activities, the simple childhood joys of being outside playing together seem lost. “At times, Ross seems like a ghost town. It would be wonderful to once again see residents out strolling and gardening, and children playing in the neighborhoods with their friends.”

ROSS DISCO COUNCIL

The Ross Disco Council (Disaster Council) is alive and well! Fire Chief Tom Vallee is working closely with Patti Shimek, our new Disco Chairperson, as well as an appointed Town Council member, a Ross Property Owners Association Board Member, a Ross School liaison person, and up to three members of the Community. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1st., 2012. Block Captains and Community members are always welcomed. A major goal is to have every household in Ross participate in the “Get Ready” program, a free two-hour course , given by the Ross Fire Department personnel. If you or your neighbors have not yet taken the course, it’s just a phone call away to Chief Tom Vallee—(415) 453-1453. Let’s all be prepared for any disaster or emergency!!

BEAUTIFUL NEW BANNERS FOR FALL

A huge thank you to Ross School Art Teacher Ms Helene Clarke and her art students for designing our beautiful new Fall banners which grace the lamp posts in the Town’s downtown area. The budding artists who contributed their talents were: 8th graders Cammie Crotta, Kailey Kirkwood, Alivia Levie, Allison Van Dorston; 7th graders: Alex Coon, Alex Barnet, Maia Mazur, Bryte Darden, Ludovic De Bruyn; and 5th grader Zeldia Pavlina. Congratulations!!!

COMMON SENSE

When playing, walking or picnicking on our magnificent Common, please be mindful of its care. When leaving, look around for items, particularly clothes and garbage you may have left behind. Should your dog be delightfully playing in the designated area, please pick up his/her detritus.



101ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED BY THE ROSS FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Ross Fire Department invited the Townspeople to a BBQ at the fire station held on Saturday, September 10th., 2011. Everything was set up in the large parking area behind Town Hall. The fire engine bays held a nice display of historical artifacts and photographs. There was a large Bounce House with a slide to the delight of the children. The barbecued burgers, franks and baked beans were accompanied by a selection of salads and desserts. Much of the very good food and drinks were donated. Chief Tom Vallee reports that about 175 people attended and that he was pleased to see several people whom he had not seen for quite some time.

FIREHOUSE BEANS

1 can Bush's baked beans

2 cans red kidney beans

2 cans white beans

1 lb. bacon

1 large yellow onion

1 ½ cups brown sugar

1 ½ cups ketchup

1 ½ cups shredded cheddar cheese

Cook bacon set aside

Dice and cook yellow onion in ½ of remaining bacon fat

Stir together in large bowl beans, crumbled bacon, onion sugar, and ketchup

Pour into large Pyrex dish and bake at 350 for 30-35 minutes add cheddar to top and cook another five minutes

WHAT'S IN YOUR MEDICINE CABINET?

Old medications and unused prescriptions are a potential hazard and it is imperative that they are disposed of properly, lest they end up in the hands of young people and others who may abuse them.

Prescription drug use by teenagers in Marin is on the rise and a recent study shows that 8% of Marin 9th graders and 12 % of Marin 11th graders have taken prescription drugs to get "high." National studies show that nearly six out of ten teenagers have access to drugs via their family and friends' medicine cabinets.

Proper disposal of old and/or unused medications is an easy way to reduce or eliminate access to these drugs, but PLEASE don't flush them down the toilet as many of them are toxic to the environment and wildlife. Just put them in a sealed plastic bag and drop them off at a pharmacy near you.

There are many pharmacies in the county which provide free Drop-Off facilities for pharmaceutical waste and sharps. Jack's Pharmacy in San Anselmo and Ross Valley Pharmacy in Larkspur are two nearby pharmacies. For general information call 415-499-6907. The only facilities which take controlled substances (i.e. Oxycontin, Vicodin, Percocet, and Demerol) are the Marin County Coroners Office 499-6043 and the Mill Valley Police Department 389-4100.



ROSS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 747

ROSS, CA 94957

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ROSS PROPERTY OWNER'S 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.

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 E-MAIL
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:
www.RPOAross.org

RPOA NEWS Briefs

- Do you have an idea for a project for the town that the Association could take on? Please let us hear from you. In the past we have tackled projects of all sizes, so think big if you wish.
- An area of service that the Board provides for our members is to present a member's concern about Town issues to the Town Council at council meetings. Contact a Board member so that your question can be considered for presentation to The Council.
- Member Support – Thanks to the generosity of the membership we are able to contribute to the ambiance of Ross. Some examples are: the purchase of the decorations for the 4th of July observance; the decorations for the town center and bridges for the winter holiday season; the Banners on the light poles along Ross Common from Lagunitas Rd. to Redwood Drive.
- The 2011 RPOA membership count is 310 households. The letter for your 2012 membership renewal will be in the mail in January. WATCH FOR IT!



ROSS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSN. BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011

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Box 179

ANNE HICKEY
Vice-President
Box 216

IRIS WINEY
Secretary
Box 1472

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Box 1409

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Box 631

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