

Ross Property Owner's Association is dedicated to providing funds and services for the benefit of the general and school community of the Town of Ross

Ross Property Owners' Association

Newsletter

Town of Ross

Early Fall 2008

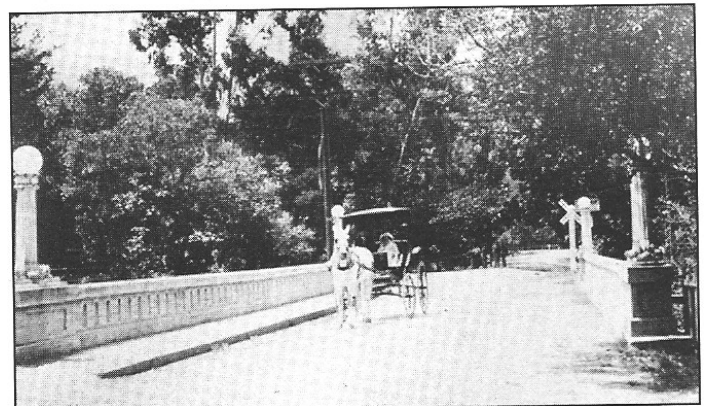
A Letter to the Ross Town Council from the Ross Historical Society on

The Lagunitas Road Bridge

Mayor Pro Tempore Strauss read a letter into the record from the Moya Library/Ross Historical Society as follows:

“Exactly 100 years ago, the first elected Ross Town Council held its second Council meeting. The subject of that meeting was the improvement of the Town’s Lagunitas Road Bridge. At that time, all the bridges of Ross were constructed of wood and badly in need of repair. After much study and consideration, the Town Council decided to replace the old wood Lagunitas Bridge with a more durable concrete bridge. A bond measure was passed at a special Ross election in May of 1909. The Council contracted civil engineer, John Buck Leonard, a pioneer of reinforced concrete bridge construction, to design the new Lagunitas Bridge as well as the four other Town bridges.

Due to his innovative work in the early 1900s, John Buck Leonard is now a historically prominent figure. The five bridges of Ross are the only remaining cluster of Leonard’s work in the entire State of California. In 1979, the Ross Bridges were nominated to be placed on the National Registry of Historic Places, but due to the lack of follow-through, they were never officially registered.



The Lagunitas Road Bridge

Soon after the Lagunitas Bridge was completed, the “miracle” of electricity became available in the Town of Ross. In 1911, Harriette DeWitt Kittle (an early 1881 Ross settler) submitted a design for an artistic Electrolier,” and suggested that four of these beautiful light fixtures be placed on the Lagunitas Bridge. This was done, and those very fixtures have lit the way of many generations of Ross residents. The Lagunitas Bridge is the oldest and most photographed public structure in the Town of Ross. The historic and rare “Electroliers” are a prominent feature in hundreds of historic photographs. The Lagunitas Bridge elegantly spans not only decades, but acts as a central connector, joining the two sides of the Town which are separated by the main creek, thus creating a sense of community.

Continued on page 4

LEAF BLOWER ORDINANCE

The misuse of leaf blowers in town has become an increasing problem. The RPOA has participated with the Town Manager's office in producing an Ordinance handout for the Police Dept. to give to residents in the case of a complaint about leaf blower use. The handout is in English and Spanish and reads as follows:

Leaf Blower Use

1. Electric Leaf Blowers are permitted Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.
2. Only property owners may use leaf blowers on Saturday between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.
3. No leaf blowers on Sundays and Holidays.
4. Gasoline powered leaf blowers are permitted only if the Public Works Dept. issues a special permit.
5. Gardeners may use power mowers on Saturday between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., but may not use leaf blowers of any kind on the weekend.

EACH VIOLATION IS SUBJECT TO A
\$100 PENALTY

RPOA Board of Directors For 2007

President— **Diane Rudden**

Vice President— **Wendy McPhee**

Secretary— **Carla Small**

Treasurer— **Frank Doodha**

Members-at-Large
Lesley Reidy

Anne Hickey

“The Morning After”

The Ross Town E-Newsletter

By Gary Broad

The Morning After, the Ross e-newsletter about the previous night's Council meeting, premiered in mid-2007. My goal was to inform residents about Town happenings and engage them in local affairs. From the title down, The Morning After was conceived to shatter the beaucratic mold and be timely and too informative and compelling to put down.

The Morning After was an immediate success. Over 50 residents promptly cheered this new endeavor: “I wanted to let you know how great the Morning After news is...this will greatly increase the awareness and involvement of town residents.”

Producing The Morning After is a labor of love. Council meetings often run past 11 p.m. and this e-newsletter must be delivered the next morning before noon. We've learned writing and productions tricks, so we're less likely to be panicking at 10 a.m. Prior to the council meeting, we prepare an advance mock-up of the issue, including some photos and “pre-written” story section. Often we have to rewrite a draft story as a hearing takes an unexpected turn!

Project Planner Christine O'Rourke takes careful meeting notes, though we can't write about every agenda item (that's what minutes are for—and no one enjoys reading those!) Our one “rule” is to include only items actually discussed at the meeting. Christine and I are back at work by 7 a.m., finalizing stories and newsletter layout and getting the Morning After out the door—hopefully by 10:30 a.m.

Order The Morning After at 453-1453 ext. 105. It's free and we'll never do a pledge drive. Circulation has doubled--we want everyone to have a front row seat to watch their town operate.

Town Council Members and Council Committee Assignments and Town Representatives

Ross Town Council:

- Mayor – William Cahill
- Mayor Pro Tempore – Richard Strauss
- Council Member – Scot Hunter
- Council Member – Christopher Martin
- Council Member – Michael Skall

Town Committees:

- Community Protection – Hunter/Skall
- Public Works – Strauss/Martin
- General Government – Skall/Hunter
- Finance – Martin/Strauss

Other Committees:

- Joint Oversight – Cahill/Martin
- TAM – Skall
- MTA – Martin, alternate - Skall
- MCCMC Legislative – Cahill/Martin
- Flood Control County – Strauss/Martin
- ABAG – Skall

Non-Council Appointments:

- MERA – Tom Gaffney
- Ross Valley Paramedics – Bruce Hart
- Seniors – Lorraine Berry
- Mosquito Abatement – Wendy McPhee
- Solid Waste – Gary Broad
- Street Tree Working Group – Janell Hobart
- Town Chief of Protocol – Molly Gamble

Town Projects and Liaisons:

- Flood – Strauss/Martin
- Ross Rec – Martin
- Fire Consolidation – Hunter
- RPOA – Skall
- Leadership Council – Skall
- Facilities – Hunter/Martin
- Underground Utilities – Martin
- Ross School – Skall
- Marin Art & Garden Center – Hunter
- 37 Sir Francis Drake – Hunter/Martin
- Downtown Plan – Strauss/Martin

Did you know??

The minutes to the Town Council minutes are available on the town's website under Council Minutes.

www.townofross.org

RPOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

Your membership and generosity enables us to do “*Good Works*” around Town. Some things are more visible than others.

Underwrite the design of the Centennial Banners
Arrange for the design, production and hanging of the banners that appear on the lampposts along Ross Common/Poplar Ave. year round

Maintain the supply of plastic bags for the doggy bag dispensers

Donation to The Ross Historical Society to help underwrite their book
Ross California: the People, the Places, the History

Fund and do part of the work for the holiday decorations in the town center

Recognition of Town staff, at the year end, with a “thank you” gift for their services on our behalf

“Bothered” Town staff for the Leaf Blower Ordinance, in hand out size cards and having them available for everyone

Facilitated the installation of the Disaster Preparedness bulletin board at the Post Office, as well as providing the printed materials available for the taking.

Last but not least, we served fresh popcorn at the

SOLICITOR FRAUD ALERT

Residents should be aware that some door-to-door solicitors are frauds. The Town of Ross has a solicitor ordinance that prohibits door-to-door commercial solicitation without a permit from the town. (NO SUCH PERMITS HAVE BEEN APPLIED FOR OR ISSUED WITHIN THE PAST 4 YEARS.) Political and non-profit organizations are exempt from this law. If you receive a visit from a commercial solicitor, ask to see their permit. If they cannot show one issued by the town, call the Ross Police Dept. at 453-2727 to report the violation.

Certs (continued from page 4)

For complete information go to the Town's web site www.townofross.org and click on “Community Preparedness”. There is a wealth of practical information here, also.

YELLOW EMERGENCY TAB in Ross Recreation Community Telephone Directory. Check it out! It has phone numbers, GET READY information and work sheets.

Public Safety Update

Councilman Hunter reports that his meeting with new Police Chief Jim Reis and new Fire Chief Tom Vallee was very positive. There was tremendous enthusiasm expressed by both men and their goals and objectives for their departments are in line with Council desires.

Fire Chief Vallee has announced the promotions of firefighters Tim Grasser and Rick Rosecrans. Firefighter Grasser has been promoted to Captain and Firefighter Rosecrans has been promoted to Engineer.

DID YOU KNOW?

The main source of income for the Town is from property taxes. The Town receives 19% of every property tax dollar and 81% goes to the county, special districts, and schools etc.

Senior Planner Elise Semonian gave birth to her son, Peter, during the summer. Despite being on maternity leave, she makes cameo appearances in the Planning Office. Her position is being filled, temporarily, by Dani Hamilton.

Ross Recreation has launched a new Pre-care Program for children 9 months to 3 years of age. The program is housed in the "cafe" at the Marin Art and Garden Center.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM PROGRAM

CERT

The CERT program educates people about disaster preparedness and hazards that may impact their neighborhood. CERT training is designed to prepare you to help yourself, your neighbors, and associates in the event of a disaster. CERT members realize that in the event of a major disaster they will have to rely on their neighbors and themselves to handle emergencies until professional help arrives.

CERT members receive the following training during a basic course:

- Introduction and Disaster Service Workers
- Disaster Psychology
- Fire Safety and Suppression
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Search and Rescue
- CERT Organization
- Next Steps

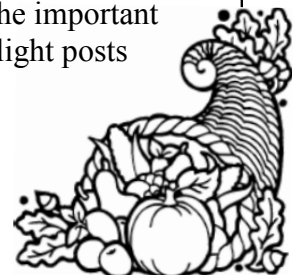
CERT members are trained to be more self-sufficient following a disaster, able to provide emergency assistance, work as a team in their neighborhood, and are empowered to be a survivor and not become a victim.

There are two CERT Programs available locally:
Corte Madera Fire Dept. 12 hours
San Rafael Fire Dept. 21 hours

Bridges, continued from page 1

While the Ross Historical Society recognizes the Council's desire to reconstruct/engineer the bridge to mitigate local flooding, we urge the Council to preserve the historic elements of the bridge and to accurately reproduce (as nearly as possible) the original appearance of this historically important Town centerpiece. We feel confident that this can be done without sacrificing flood safety.

We especially request that the exquisite, signature "Electroliers" be preserved and affixed to the new bridge. If (due to their age/condition) these lamps cannot structurally withstand being repositioned on the new bridge, we request that molds be made, and that historic replicas be created and placed on the new bridge. If replicas are used for the new bridge, we suggest that the original electroliers be restored and relocated to a prominent location in Town. The important local history behind these rare light posts makes them a Town treasure.



**Ross Department of Public Safety
33 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.**

August 2008		ROSS POLICE DIVISION ACTIVITY REPORT			
	Month	Year	Month	Year	
TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS			CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS		
Vehicle vs. Vehicle	2	32	Homicide	0	0
Vehicle vs Animal	0	2	Suicide	0	0
Vehicle vs. Bicycle	0	0	Robbery	0	0
Vehicle vs. Pedestrian	0	2	Elder/Dependent Abuse	0	0
Vehicle vs. Fixed Object	1	6	Spousal Abuse	0	0
Vehicle vs. Other	1	4	Child Abuse	0	1
Injury Accidents	0	4	Sexual Assaults	0	0
Non-Injury Accidents	4	42	Assault/Battery	0	3
CITATIONS			Obscene/Annoying Calls	1	2
Parking Citations	45	251	CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY		
Moving Citations	8	95	Burglary (Residential)	0	7
ARRESTS			Burglary (Commercial)	0	0
Felony (Adult)	0	2	Burglary (Vehicle)	0	1
Misdemeanor (Adult)	10	17	Vehicle Theft	0	1
Felony (Juvenile)	0	1	Grand Theft	0	9
Misdemeanor (Juvenile)	0	1	Petty Theft	2	10
MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITY			Vandalism	0	7
Missing Persons	2	6	Trespassing	0	8
Shots Fired	0	2	Prowling	0	1
Malicious Mischief	5	35	CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE		
Medical Aid Calls	7	49	Weapon Violations	0	2
Public Assist	10	68	Narcotic Violations	0	0
9-1-1 Calls	1	34	Driving Under Influence	2	4
Parking Complaints	13	70	Reckless Driving	0	8
Suspicious Circumstances	9	53	Public Intoxication	0	2
Suspicious Subjects	7	68	Disturbing the Peace	5	25
Suspicious Vehicles	1	16	Suspended License	1	1
Assist Fire Department	11	65	Mentally Disturbed	0	7
Alarm Activations	24	188	Bomb Threats	0	0
Outside Agency Assists	20	172	Check/Credit Fraud	0	2
Animal Complaints	3	21	Muni-Code Violations	5	37
Miscellaneous Services	9	79	Road Rage Incidents	0	2
Vehicles Impound/Storage	0	0	Identity Theft	0	0
Lost/Found Property	4	31	Terrorist Threats	0	0
Traffic Hazards	5	28	Domestic Disputes	0	14
Deceased Persons	0	0	Hate Crimes	0	0
Directed Enforcement	31	416	Curfew violations	0	14
ExtraPatrol/Vacation Checks	517	3991	Felony Pursuit/Evading	0	0
Welfare Checks	1	12	Resisting Arrest	0	0
Civil Advice	3	46	Assault/Battery on Officers	0	0
Civil Disputes	2	8	Stalking	0	0

Ross Property Owners Association
P. O. Box 747
Ross, CA 94957

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Early Fall Issue
2008

Town Council Meeting

*Regularly held the second Thursday of
the month in the Town Hall*

RPOA Meeting

*Regularly held on the Monday before
the Town Council Meeting at 7:15 p.m.
in the Town Hall*

Town's email

*to receive The Morning After and other town
information contact: Linda Lopez at
llopez@townofross.org*



**TOWN OF ROSS
TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
For Public Distribution**

DEPARTMENT NAME	PRIMARY CALL-IN TELEPHONE NUMBER	3-DIGIT EXTENSION
Police Department	415-453-1453	Menu Option 2
Fire Department	415-453-1453	Menu Option 3
Town Manager	415-453-1453	Extension 107
Planning Department	415-453-1453	Menu Option 5
Building Department	415-453-1453	Menu Option 6
Public Works Department	415-453-1453	Menu Option 6

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY BY EMPLOYEE NAME

EMPLOYEE NAME	DEPARTMENT	DIGIT EXTENSION
Addicks, Rick (Firefighter)	Fire Department	161 **
Besgrove, Robert (School Resource Officer)	Police Department	155 **
Broad, Gary (Town Manager/Planning Director)	Planning Department	107 *
Campa, Gianfranco (Police Officer)	Police Department	174 **
Grasser, Timothy (Fire Captain (Acting))	Fire Department	159 **
Haggett, Robert (Building Inspector)	Public Works	170 **
Jamotte, Simone (Public Works Secretary)	Public Works	106 *
Jarjoura, Mel (Public Works Director)	Public Works	119 **
Lopez, Linda (Administrative Asst)	Administration/Town Hall	105 *
Maccario, Robert (Public Works Supervisor)	Public Works	163 **
McKendry, Kevin (Police Officer)	Police Department	154 **
Moy, Danny (Police Officer)	Police Department	162 **
Nelson, Steve (Police Officer)	Police Department	153 **
Peterson, Jake (Fire Captain)	Fire Department	158 **
Popken, James (Firefighter)	Fire Department	160 **
Reis, James (Police Chief)	Police Department	101 *
Selfridge, Bruce (Fire Captain)	Fire Department	156 **
Semonian, Elise (Senior Planner)	Planning Department	121 *
Stromoski, Paul (Police Officer)	Police Department	175 **
Tucker, Robert (Police Sergeant)	Police Department	152 **
Vallee, Thomas (Fire Chief (Acting))	Fire Department	157 *

ROSS TOWN COUNCIL	TITLE	PHONE (EXT)
Cahill, William bcahill@calfox.com	Mayor	415-464-3665
Strauss, Richard rstrauss@straussarchitects.com	Mayor Pro Tempore	165 **
Hunter, Scot scothunter@comcast.net	Council Member	415-459-4508
Martin, Christopher rosscitizen@gmail.com	Council Member	415-215-8411
Skall, Michael mikeskall@comcast.net	Council Member	167 **

Planning & Administration Dept Fax:	415-453-1950
Building & Public Works Fax:	415-460-9761
Police/Fire Fax:	415-453-6124

* Extension numbers 101 through 107 ring directly to the named employee's workstation.
 ** Extension numbers 150 through 170 ring only to voice mail, as the individual has no specifically assigned workstation or desk telephone number. If on duty, direct contact with those individuals may be attempted by selecting their department's menu option listed by the Auto Attendant feature. (See Telephone Directory by Department shown above.)

All emergency requests for Police or Fire Department responses should be made by dialing 9-1-1