

*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 Spring 2008**

## **CANDIDATES NIGHT**

for the Ross Town Council Election

Tuesday, APRIL 29, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Ross School Multipurpose Room

The candidates are:

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Douglas Abrams | Diane Durst        |
| Scot Hunter    | Christopher Martin |
| Don Santa      | Rick Strauss       |

The candidates will each have 5 minutes for their opening statement and 2 minutes for a closing statement at the end of the evening. The moderator will ask them questions prepared by the RPOA and questions from the audience (submitted in writing that evening or mailed in ahead of time).

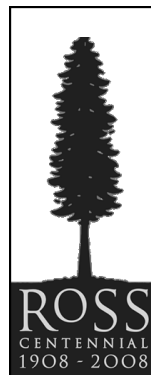
Send to:  
P.O.Box 747.

Your questions can be anonymous.

*The RPOA neither supports nor opposes any candidate for this office*

## **CENTENNIAL NEWS**

*Courtesy of the Ross Historical Society*



“Ross, California, The People, The Places, The History” due for publication this spring, is a volume rich in the early history of the Town of Ross. It was a collaborative effort of a small committee of the Jose Moya Library/ Ross Historical Society members. The authors have brought history to life in the stories of the early settlers in the Ross Valley and enriched that history with vignettes, and timely quotes from early residents and publications.

The hard cover book will include many rare 19<sup>th</sup> Century photographs of the Ross Valley and its pioneers.

If you have questions call:  
Bob Battersby @ 383-2946

## **April Showers Bring May Flowers & Mosquitoes**



With intermittent showers and warm sun, be sure to get rid of standing water that may have collected around your property and make sure that your pool filters are active. Another breeding area for mosquitoes is the tree holes. These can be filled to prevent further breeding possibilities. Because mosquitoes can transmit diseases such as West Nile virus and encephalitis, it is good to take steps to protect yourself with long sleeves and or mosquito repellent in early morning and evening time. Report any dead squirrels or birds to 1-877-968-2473.

The Marin Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District (MSMVCD) has a field representative that will come by and make regular checks of your ponds and creek area. You may also get mosquito eating fish from the district to use in contained ponds. If you would like to be put on a no-spray list call the district. Visit the MSMVCD website for information and to download informational brochures at <http://www.msamosquito.com> or call 1-800-231-3236.

## AROUND TOWN

Town Honors Employees At the January 2008 Town Council meeting the Council recognized five employees for their years of dedicated work for and in the town. Receiving awards were: Police Sergeant **Jim Reis** for 30 years of service; Public Works Superintendent **Robert Maccario**, 15 years; Fire Department Captain **Jake Peterson**, 15 years; Fire Department Engineer **Rick Addicks**, 5 years; and Police Officer **Steve Nelson**, 5 years.

Ross is a Healthy Place to Live Ross received an "A" on the American Lung Association's tobacco control report card. Ross was one of only six Bay Area municipalities to receive top marks.

### 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**

## RPOA NEWS

The Association annual meeting was held February 11, 2008 in the Ross Town Hall. All of the officers have generously agreed to serve on the Board of Directors for another year. (see box insert for their names and offices)

Thank you to all of the new members who have joined since January. WELCOME !

At the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, Ross School gave a presentation on the Measure A Bond. A large number of people attended and were rewarded with a very informative and well done presentation.

Within the past year, RPOA philanthropy has included a donation to the Ross Centennial Committee to fund the design of the centennial logo and a donation to the Ross Historical Society to help underwrite the publication of their book.

At the March Town Council meeting, during "Report from the Ross Property Owners Assn.", we mentioned the Light Brown Apple Moth proposed spraying program and recommended that the Council take a stand opposing it; Downtown parking – suggesting that the town consider changing the parking time limits adjacent to the retail businesses; Announced that we plan to sponsor Candidates Night; and followed up on an earlier question regarding regulations governing the placement of "Green Cans" when it is not a pick-up day.

## FROM THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

At the December Council meeting, Resolution No. 1639 establishing an Advisory Review process was approved unanimously.

The Council approved the appointment of **Wendy McPhee** to the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control Board for a 2 year term ending December 31, 2009. This is Wendy's second appointment to represent Ross on this board.

## **COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS -**

### **Get Ready Program**

The Get Ready Program is a disaster preparedness program designed to educate residents with basic skills to survive a disaster. For Get Ready information visit [www.getreadymarin.org](http://www.getreadymarin.org)

There will be two more community based Get Ready classes, courtesy of Molly Gamble and Elaine Schultz. Cecilia Conte, Ross' talented volunteer coordinator, will be teaching one of the sessions.

#### **Thursday, April 24th 9-11 a.m.**

Mollie Gamble's home—14 Norwood Ave.  
(with Cecilia Conte RSVP: [mgamble@comcast.net](mailto:mgamble@comcast.net))

#### **Friday, May 16th 9-11 a.m.**

Elaine Schultz's home—201 Bolinas Ave.  
RSVP: [elasch@comcast.net](mailto:elasch@comcast.net)

The first 3 Get Ready classes have been well-attended, with more than 60 residents joining the ranks of the prepared. Please join us at one of these two sessions and help us reach our goal of having at least 25% of Ross families trained in 2008 for disaster preparedness.

**What's in Your Kit?** Having an emergency kit is an important part of being prepared.

<http://www.getreadymarin.org/resources.html>  
(click on the Home Supply Checklist) or take a look at what San Francisco residents are doing at: [http://www.72hours.org/build\\_kit.html](http://www.72hours.org/build_kit.html), or what the Federal Government recommends at: <http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/index.html>

## **PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT**

*Information taken from the March Public Safety Report*

Public Safety has purchased a community **Automatic External Defibrillator** (AED) to place in Town Hall. AED devices are becoming common anywhere there are public gatherings ie, town hall buildings, community centers, schools, airports, and stadiums to name a few. The Department acted upon the recommendation from the Employee Safety Committee and has arranged for training support from the same person who conducts annual training for the police and firefighters. The device is designed to be used by civilians who have taken a training class. It will be centrally located in Town Hall after some of the employees have taken the training class.

## **PLEASE SUPPORT MEASURE "D"**

*(submitted by The Ross Town Council)*

VOTE YES to continue the Ross Municipal Services Tax. It is crucial to the Town's operation. Despite the Council's conservative fiscal practices, our revenue sources cannot keep pace with rising costs, including retirement, workers compensation, and insurance.

In 1984, Ross voters first chose to support additional taxes rather than risk reductions in public safety services. Every 4 years since, voters have resoundingly endorsed this tax, which received over 60% voter approval in 2004.

More than two-thirds of the Town budget supports public safety costs. This ballot measure provides funds to retain talented public safety staff and invest in public safety equipment as well as fund other Town services including tree and park maintenance.

The measure continues the present \$1,000.00 maximum annual levy. The actual rate is set each year following a public hearing. In 2007, the Council set the rate at \$775. This tax will be in effect for 4 years, ending in 2012.

The Town Council and all 6 Council candidates supports this measure.

*The RPOA neither supports nor opposes Measure D*

## **MARIN SANITARY SERVICE**

The Town Council unanimously approved the Marin Sanitary Service rate increase at the January 2008 meeting. A rate increase of 3.46% was effective January 1, 2008. The new rate increases the cost of a 32 gallon can \$0.74 and a 64 gallon can \$1.48 per month in the flat terrain areas. About ¼ of the rate increase is attributed to higher costs for processing yard waste for compost. Marin Sanitary has introduced a new 20 gallon can for residential customers who generate less waste. The 20 gallon can is priced 15% below the 32 gallon can rate. Contact Marin Sanitary Service for information. 456-2601

# Street Tree Working Group

Council Member Durst's Report in February '08

Mrs. Durst relayed an interesting bit of history that the Street Tree Working Group (STWG) Chair, Janell Hobart learned from Gary Scales, a member of the Ross Historical Society. By 1870 most of Ross Valley had been logged out of most of its valuable lumber stock and was relatively barren of trees. Beginning in 1870, the Dibble family of Ross started to replant their driveway with trees. That driveway is now known as Fernhill Avenue. STWG has identified Fernhill as the place to start planting street trees. They have recently sent letters to the Fernhill Ave. property owners advising them of their intentions to plant trees in the right-of-way within the next few months. The tree planting will stop at Branson School and there are plans to work with Branson on trees for their section of Fernhill.

STWB plans to make a presentation to the Council at the April or May meeting regarding a "Centennial Tree Plan" which will outline a street tree plan for the entire town. Chair Hobart has offered the services of her firm to develop a visual representation of what Ross could look like in 100 years for their bicentennial celebration.

## Ross School's Renovation Project and Measure A

In 2006, the community generously approved a \$15 million bond, which serves as the core funding for our current school renovation to replace the deteriorated K-5 classrooms and raise the school above the flood plain.

In late April, the Ross School renovation project will begin. The overall projected costs are in line with comparable public school projects.

The District has worked diligently and successfully to raise additional funds from federal, state, and private sources. However, a funding shortfall still exists to complete the project.

Measure A seeks approval of a supplemental \$6.75 million bond to **Finish the Job**. Completing the project in its entirety would be the most cost-effective and least disruptive option. Without Measure A, only the first floor of the K-5 facility would be completed, necessitating long-term portable classrooms along Ross Common. Additionally, without completion of all classrooms, construction of the privately funded gymnasium/multipurpose room would be delayed indefinitely due to space constraints.

project, provide a safe environment for our children, and enhance our community for future generations.

Measure A will:

- Leverage taxpayer dollars with private donations
- Cost approximately \$125 or less per year for the majority of homeowners.



*Proposed Design of Ross School*

With a combination of public and private funding, we can complete our school renovation project, provide a safe environment for our children, and enhance our community for future generations.

There are several presentations scheduled:

Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm at the Gamble home (14 Norwood)

Tuesday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am at the Williams home (61 Glenwood)

Monday April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Ohlson home (63 Winship)

Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Grady home (239 Poplar in Kentfield)

Please attend one of these informational presentations. For further information about the Ross School renovation, you can also visit [www.rossbear.org](http://www.rossbear.org) or call the RossBEARS committee at 267-3980.

*The RPOA neither supports nor opposes Measure A*

# Public Safety Incident Report—2007

## TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Vehicle vs. Vehicle      | 23 |
| Vehicle vs. Animal       | 4  |
| Vehicle vs. Bicycle      | 5  |
| Vehicle vs. Pedestrian   | 0  |
| Vehicle vs. Fixed Object | 5  |
| Vehicle vs. Other        | 5  |
| Injury Accidents         | 5  |
| Non-Injury Accidents     | 37 |

## CITATIONS

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Parking Citations | 271 |
| Moving Citations  | 196 |

## ARRESTS

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Felony (Adult)         | 5  |
| Misdemeanor (Adult)    | 24 |
| Felony (Juvenile)      | 1  |
| Misdemeanor (Juvenile) | 4  |

## MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITY

|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Missing Persons           | 12    |
| Shots Fired               | 1     |
| Malicious Mischief        | 21    |
| Medical Aid Calls         | 56    |
| Public Assist             | 101   |
| 9-1-1- Calls              | 28    |
| Parking Complaints        | 96    |
| Suspicious Circumstances  | 59    |
| Suspicious Subjects       | 88    |
| Suspicious Vehicles       | 28    |
| Assist Fire Department    | 80    |
| Alarm Activations         | 265   |
| Outside Agency Assists    | 300   |
| Animal Complaints         | 50    |
| Miscellaneous Services    | 119   |
| Vehicle Impound / Storage | 6     |
| Lost / Found Property     | 63    |
| Traffic Hazards           | 24    |
| Deceased Persons          | 1     |
| Directed Enforcement      | 696   |
| Extra Patrol / Vacation   | 6,059 |
| Checks                    | 21    |
| Welfare Checks            | 105   |
| Civil Advice              | 5     |
| Civil Disputes            | 5     |

## CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Homicide                | 0 |
| Suicide                 | 0 |
| Robbery                 | 0 |
| Elder / Dependent Abuse | 0 |
| Spousal Abuse           | 2 |
| Child Abuse             | 0 |
| Sexual Assaults         | 0 |
| Assault / Battery       | 3 |
| Obscene/Annoying Calls  | 4 |

## CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Burglary (Residential) | 4  |
| Burglary (Commercial)  | 3  |
| Burglary (Vehicle)     | 1  |
| Vehicle Theft          | 0  |
| Grand Theft            | 13 |
| Petty Theft            | 9  |
| Vandalism              | 7  |
| Trespassing            | 1  |
| Prowling               | 10 |

## CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Weapon Violations             | 1  |
| Narcotic Violations           | 3  |
| Driving Under Influence       | 12 |
| Reckless Driving              | 21 |
| Public Intoxication           | 4  |
| Disturbing the Peace          | 47 |
| Suspended License             | 3  |
| Mentally Disturbed            | 15 |
| Bomb Threats                  | 0  |
| Check/Credit Fraud            | 9  |
| Muni-Code Violations          | 33 |
| Road Rage Incidents           | 9  |
| Identity Theft                | 2  |
| Terrorist Threats             | 2  |
| Domestic Disputes             | 18 |
| Hate Crimes                   | 0  |
| Curfew violations             | 10 |
| Felony Pursuit / Evading      | 1  |
| Resisting Arrest              | 4  |
| Assault / Battery on Officers | 0  |
| Stalking                      | 0  |



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

**Reminder:**

*watch for availability of Ross Rec.  
Phone Directory*

