



November - December, 2020

The City of Sebastopol community newsletter is one way to stay in touch with what's going on in Sebastopol. Our web site, [CityofSebastopol.org](http://CityofSebastopol.org) is another. It's chock-full of information on City services, public meetings, and community resources. Or, stop by City offices any time we are open!

## The City of Sebastopol Wants You to Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!



As the holidays are upon us and we are making plans, the state has issued guidance on private gatherings to help us have a safe and happy holiday season. COVID-19 continues to pose a severe risk to communities. The safest way to gather is to spend time with people in the same household or to gather virtually. All persons planning to host or participate in a private gathering must comply with the following state requirements. County restrictions may be more restrictive than this guidance, so refer to county guidelines for what's allowed.

1. Attendance: Gatherings that include more than 3 households are prohibited.

2. Gather Outdoors: Gatherings that occur outdoors are significantly safer than indoor gatherings.
3. Don't Attend Gatherings If You Feel Sick or You Are in a High-Risk Group
4. Practice Physical Distancing and Hand Hygiene at Gatherings
5. Wear a Face Covering to Keep COVID-19 from Spreading
6. Keep it Short: Gatherings should be two hours or less.
7. Rules for Singing, Chanting, and Shouting at Outdoor Gatherings: Singing, chanting, shouting, and physical exertion significantly increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

See the California Department of Public Health website for the complete Guidance for Private Gatherings: <https://bit.ly/3dmDI6M>

## COVID-19 Updates

Visit [SoCoEmergency.org](http://SoCoEmergency.org) for the most up-to-date information on COVID-19 and Sonoma County's response and resources.

## Shop Local for the Holidays

The closer you shop to home, the further your money goes. When you buy local, significantly more money recirculates in local communities. When you shop at locally owned, independent businesses more money is kept in the community because local businesses often purchase from other local businesses, service providers and farms. Buying locally helps grow other businesses as well as our region's tax base. Local independent businesses invest 3 times more money back into the local economy than non-local businesses.



Not only does shopping local help other businesses in the community it helps fund other important services. A whopping 53% of our city's budget comes from sales and other (non-property) taxes. Sales tax revenue is a guaranteed funding source for essential city services, including public safety, code enforcement, parks and landscaping, streets pavement and other essential services.

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## Business License Applications and Renewals

We're moving to a completely paperless system for business license applications and renewals. Renewal notices will be sent electronically to the email info we have on file. Make sure your contact information is updated. You can check and update your information at our renewals portal at <http://bit.ly/WebRenewals>. We're also upgrading our online business directory to allow you to make it easier for your customers to find your business. Make sure that your business information is up to date by visiting the online portal at <http://bit.ly/BLWebApplication> where you can also apply for a business license. Please make sure to fill out all applicable fields. Give us a call at (707) 823-7863 with any questions.



## Linda & Joe Maloney Are Locals Who Make A Difference

Linda and Joe Maloney - supporting their community with acts of kindness and generosity, large and small.



Volunteerism and service to community have been defining values for the Maloney family for decades. Nominators pointed to the Maloneys' longstanding contributions to local projects, including donating a lot on Johnson Street and helping to build two Habitat for Humanity homes there, sponsoring the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center's Talent Show, and being instrumental in sports field improvements at Analy High School, ultimately leading to a completely upgraded facility. Over the years, Joe could be found on the football field, not only as a volunteer coach, but also making repairs to the football field and stands with materials that he had supplied. Most recently the Maloneys have supported the West County Chapter of the Construction Corps program, which will be training high school seniors in the construction trades at Analy High School. To learn more about the Maloneys visit <http://bit.ly/MaloneyLWMAD>.

## Slow Cat Says, "Slow Down And Mask Up, Sebastopol!"



### Slow Cat Mask Unveiling

From left, Interim Police Chief Don Mort, Vice Mayor Una Glass, Mayor Patrick Slayter, Artist Brigitte Laurent, Seamstress Kathy Oetinger

On Wednesday, September 23rd, Mayor Patrick Slayter and Vice Mayor Una Glass unveiled Slow Cat's new custom mask in front of City Hall. Sebastopol's unofficial mascot is sporting a patchwork face covering assembled from fabric donated by a number of community members. Fabric

squares were often accompanied by notes explaining what the donor felt their piece of material meant to them or how it reminded them of aspects of Sebastopol. Patterns include tie dye, chickens, apples, and sunflowers. The Legacy Thrift provided additional materials and support. Volunteer seamstress Kathy Oetinger designed and assembled the mask.

Sebastopol's Slow Cat was created and donated to the people of Sebastopol by artists Patrick Amiot and Brigitte Laurent. Slow Cat wants to help keep everyone safe and healthy by reminding us to Slow Down and Mask Up. If you'd like Slow Cat to pay a visit to your neighborhood, please send your request to [info@CityofSebastopol.org](mailto:info@CityofSebastopol.org).

## New Experience Sebastopol Banners Installed Downtown

The City of Sebastopol worked with the Sebastopol Center for the Arts, Sebastopol Community Cultural Center, Downtown Association, Sebastopol Chamber of Commerce and others to create a campaign highlighting some of the things that make Sebastopol a great place to live. Part of the campaign includes banners with images highlighting what it means to *Shop, Love, Savor, Play, Create, and Live* in Sebastopol. Check them out now in downtown Sebastopol.



## Chamber of Commerce Annual Tree Lighting



The lighting at 6pm on December 3 will probably be virtual, but there will still be a festively decorated tree in the Downtown Plaza to ring in the season. Stay tuned for updates from the Chamber on how to participate.

## Warm Line for Emotional and Mental Health Support

The last few months have been very difficult for everyone in our community. You may be feeling stressed, isolated, depressed, and anxious. You do not need to suffer alone. Help is available.

Please call the Sonoma County Warm Line for Emotional and Mental Health Support:

**(707) 565-2652**

Or visit [SoCoEmergency.org](http://SoCoEmergency.org)

This free and private warm line is available seven days a week from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Telephone interpretation for other languages is available.

## Don't Flush Wipes!

REMINDER: Flushing wipes, paper towels and similar products down toilets will clog sewers and cause backups and overflows at wastewater treatment facilities, creating an additional public health risk in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Please do not flush disinfectant wipes or paper towels down the toilet. Our pumping system is not designed to handle these types of cloth debris. Recently city maintenance staff had to remove 1.5 cubic yards of non-biodegradable personal wipes from a Sebastopol sewer pump station BY HAND so that you can continue to flush your toilet.

