



January-February, 2019

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 is another. It is chock-full of information on City services, public meetings, and community resources. Or, stop by City offices any time we are open!

MEET YOUR NEW MAYOR

On Tuesday, November 8, 2018, citizens of Sebastopol voted to re-elect **Una Glass**, **Sarah Glade Gurney**, and **Patrick Slayter** to the Sebastopol City Council. **Michael Carnacchi** and **Neysa Hinton** remained on the Council as their terms were not up.

At the December 4, 2018 City Council meeting, **Neysa Hinton** was elected to the position of Mayor. **Patrick Slayter** was elected Vice Mayor.



Walk This Way



The City of Sebastopol has a new crosswalk in town! Located on Bodega Avenue at Nelson Way, the HAWK crosswalk, a pedestrian-activated traffic light was inaugurated with a ribbon cutting ceremony this past November.

Almost three years in the making, the crosswalk has been a project which Burbank Heights residents have regularly worked together with city staff to ensure pedestrian safety near the senior living community.

Sebastopol "Raises the Roof" on Housing Solutions



On Nov. 4, the County of Sonoma and City of Sebastopol hosted "Raise the Roof! West County Housing Fair & Expo" at the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center; an event which drew over 200 West County residents eager to learn about new available housing opportunities, such

as accessory dwelling units (ADUs), junior accessory dwelling units (JADUs), and what the county and city are currently doing to help reduce the housing shortage in Sonoma County.

Raise the Roof! West County featured two panel discussions moderated by Sonoma County District 5 Supervisor Lynda Hopkins and Sebastopol Mayor Patrick Slayter, where attendees had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the requirements of the requirements, pricing and resources regarding building ADUs/JADUs, along with other housing related concerns. Guests also had the chance to speak one-on-one with public and private organizations who specialize in housing-related sectors, such as Share Sebastopol, Permit Sonoma and Redwood Credit Union.

Check out the City website for further resources on housing in the coming months:
<https://www.ci.sebastopol.ca.us/>

New Streetlights Offer Economic and Environmental Savings

At the October 30, 2018 City Council meeting, the City Council voted to move forward with the PG&E LED Streetlight Replacement Program with the warmest available color option 2700 Kelvin LED fixtures and provide staff direction on participation in the LED streetlight Upgrade Program installed by PG&E. As a result of the LED Streetlight Upgrade Program, the City of Sebastopol will begin benefitting from significant energy savings almost immediately after installation (which PG&E would like to complete this year).

ELECTRIC BUS



Pictured above from left to right: Vice Mayor Patrick Slayter, Amie Windsor (Field Representative for Supervisor Lynda Hopkins), Councilmember Una Glass, Mayor Neysa Hinton, Councilmember Sarah Glade Gurney, Jake MacKenzie (City Council of Rohnert Park, Chair of Metropolitan Transportation Commission), Suzanne Smith (Executive Director of of Sonoma County Transportation Authority), and Bryan Albee (Transit Systems Manager, Sonoma County Transit)

The City of Sebastopol has partnered with Sonoma County Transit to launch the first all-electric bus in Sonoma County for its Route 24, or “Sebastopol Shuttle,” which began on Tuesday, December 11, 2018. This is the first electric bus in Sonoma County, - and one of the few in northern California. The twenty-two-passenger bus has a range of 137 miles. Operating as the “Sebastopol Shuttle,” the electric bus will operate approximately 95 miles per day. The acquisition of this bus begins the eventual transition to an all-electric fleet in anticipation of new California Air Resources board regulations that will require transit operators to purchase only zero-emission buses beginning in 2029. Thanks to a subsidy approved by the City Council in May, Route 24 is free for all riders through June 30, 2019.

Measures Q and R Pass

Sebastopol has voted! Measures Q and R were approved in the November 6 vote. The two tax-related measures, which are set to increment the city’s revenue, stays in effect unless repealed by the public, -- which requires a petition signed by 10% of registered voters.

Measure Q, which was first passed in 2012 and was due to expire in 2021, will indefinitely increase sales tax by half a cent.

Measure R will directly affect overnight guests. The measure will increase the city’s transient occupancy tax (TOT) local hotel tax from 10% to 12%. Sebastopol is not the only city in Sonoma County with a 12% TOT; according to the Sonoma County Economic Development Board. Windsor and Rohnert Park also share its same tax rate.

These measures will help increase city revenue which will help fund the city’s police and fire protection, roads, public infrastructure, recreational programs and city staff.

TIME BANK



Time-Banking is a simple, cost-effective way to improve quality of life and bolster community in Sebastopol. Now in its third year, The Sebastopol Area Time Bank’s 200+ members are sharing their considerable skills and talents on an hour-for-hour basis,

putting those hours in the bank and reaching out to the entire membership when they need a hand. By recognizing that everyone has something to offer and placing equal value on all work, members empower each other as they expand their social networks and build a more resilient community. As of November, more than 4100 hours of services have been exchanged.

In partnership with the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center, the Time Bank will be actively recruiting young families for a pilot program in January to offer support when they bring newborns home. Our young families can often feel isolated and vulnerable in this important time. Timebankers are already enlisted to be matched with families and provide help with things like errands, meal prep, and dog walks.

“Unfortunately, there are half as many resources for Sebastopol families as is needed for ages 0-2 childcare and support. We see this need and hope to build our Sebastopol Area Time Bank community around our young families in the coming months and years,” says Cordelia Holst, Executive Director of the SCCC.

Also in January, the Time Bank will begin accepting membership applications from nonprofit organizations. The mission is the same: organizations can give and receive for the purpose of building community.

Membership is free. To learn more, visit www.sebastopoltimebank.org, and follow us [@sebastopolareatimebank](https://www.facebook.com/sebastopolareatimebank) on Facebook and Instagram.

Cut Down on Your Paperwork

You can now pay your water and sewer bill online! Sebastopol offers online bill payment for water and sewer services. The system uses a secure, cloud-based, off-site portal where you can log in, check your bills, make a payment or sign up for Auto Pay with your Credit or Debit card. See more information at: <http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/Billpay.aspx>

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