



City of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

www.CityofSebastopol.org

April 17 - April 23 Special Weekly Edition of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

Please visit the City of Sebastopol website at www.CityOfSebastopol.org for the most up-to-date local information on the coronavirus crisis. There is a page dedicated entirely to the crisis, the [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Resource Page](#), where you will find specific resources and answers to many questions that you may have. The City of Sebastopol is also on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [NextDoor](#).

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Slow the spread of COVID-19

STAY HOME

REGULAR CITY BUSINESS CONTINUES

Administrative Services:

- Administrative Service staff are available by phone or email for questions. Please email info@cityofsebastopol.org; or call **707-823-7863** and leave a message and someone will respond to you.

City Manager's Office:

- City Hall staff are available by phone or email for questions. Please email info@cityofsebastopol.org; or call **707-823-1153** and leave a message and someone will respond to you.
- City staff encourage the public to attend and participate in the virtual City Council Meetings. Public Comments can be emailed to mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org.

Engineering Department:

- The Engineering Department is continuing City participation in regional cooperative efforts such as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Waste Agency, Sonoma County Transportation Authority, Sub-Regional Wastewater Plant, Community Development Commission, and MS4 Stormwater Work Group.

Fire Department:

- The Fire Department is open and continuing to provide first response and emergency services as usual.
- Please note that the Fire Department lobby and business office are closed.

Planning Department:

- The Planning Department is (virtually) open and continues to accept applications, but has moved to electronic submittals. Click [here](#) for details.

Police Department:

- Lobby is open to the public. For non-life-or-safety-threatening situations, we encourage the public to call the 24/7 police non-emergency line at **707-829-4400**. As always, in the event of emergency, call **911**.
- [Sebastopol Police Log - April 13 - April 19](#)

Public Works Department:

- Water and sewer utility systems continue to be monitored and maintained.

FIRE SAFETY

It's a great time to start mowing, weeding, brush removal, pruning, and general yard cleanup. The April rains will bring a new growth of weeds and can/will dry out very quickly this month. Let's all use this time to get a jump on cleaning up our property!



WATER CONSERVATION

Please continue to practice water conservation as much as possible. Things are green now, but California is still technically in a drought, with Sonoma County showing "Moderate Drought" conditions. Click [here](#) for more information.

CITY MEETINGS

All meetings will be held virtually and are open to the public to attend via web or phone link.

Agendas for upcoming meetings can be found on the City website by clicking the "[Meetings](#)" link on the home page. Agendas will contain information about participating virtually in real time when this feature is available.

City Council Meetings:

- **Meeting Days:** First and Third Tuesday of each month
- **Meeting Time:** 6pm
- **Livestream Link:** <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>
- To submit comments before the meeting:
 - **For Items Not on the Agenda:** Send via email of no more than 350 words (which corresponds to approximately 3 minutes of speaking time) to mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org so that the comments may be submitted to the mayor for reading into the record. Comments should be received by 5:00 pm of Council Meeting date. You may also leave a voice mail that will be written into the record by calling 707-823-1153 to leave a recorded message of no more than 3 minutes. It is requested that you include your name, address, and phone number in your recorded message.
 - **For Items Listed on the Agenda:** Send via email of no more than 350 words (which corresponds to approximately 3 minutes of speaking time)

to mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org so that the comments may be submitted to the mayor for reading into the record. Such email comments must identify the Agenda Item Number in the subject line of the email. Comments should be received by 5:00 pm of Council Meeting date. You may also leave a voice mail that will be written into the record by calling 707-823-1153 to leave a recorded message of no more than 3 minutes. It is requested that you include your name, address, and phone number in your recorded message.

- **Next Meeting:** [City Council Meeting of May 05, 2020 @ 6:00 PM](#)

Planning Commission Meetings:

- **Meeting Days:** Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month
- **Meeting Time:** 7pm
- **Livestream Link:** <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>
- To submit comments before meeting, send an email to kvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.org

- **Next Meeting:** [Joint Meeting of Planning Commission and Special Design Review Board of 04/28/2020 @ 7:00 PM](#) (**NOTE:** All meetings will be held virtually and are open to the public to attend via web or phone link. Information for meeting attendance can be found here: <https://www.ci.sebastopol.ca.us/Meeting-Event.aspx>)

Design Review Board Meetings:

- **Meeting Days:** First and Third Wednesday of each month
- **Meeting Time:** 4pm
- **Livestream Link:** <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>
- To submit comments before meeting, send an email to amontes@cityofsebastopol.org

- **Next Meeting:** [Joint Meeting of Planning Commission and Special Design Review Board of 04/28/2020 @ 7:00 PM](#) (**NOTE:** All meetings will be held virtually and are open to the public to attend via web or phone link. Information for meeting attendance can be found here: <https://www.ci.sebastopol.ca.us/Meeting-Event.aspx>)

Public Arts Committee Meetings:

- **Meeting Days:** First Wednesday of each month
- **Meeting Time:** 10:30am
- **Livestream Link:** <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>
- To submit comments before meeting, send an email to amontes@cityofsebastopol.org

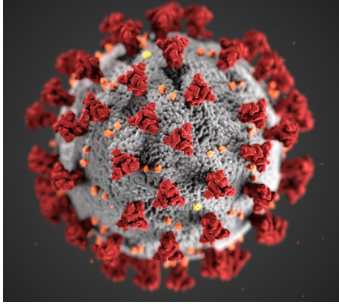
- **Next Meeting:** [Public Arts Committee Meeting of May 6, 2020 @ 10:30 AM](#)



PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

MEETING REVIEWS:

No new meeting reviews.



[SoCo Emergency Page](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

WEEKLY COVID-19 VIDEO UPDATES

See the City's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Resource Page](#) for recent City, County, and State video updates.

CPUC HELPING CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY COVID-19

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has taken a range of actions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on utility customers and small businesses. Some of those measures include reducing residential and business energy bills, suspending electric, natural gas, and water utility disconnections, suspending renewal requirements for key low-income programs, temporarily suspending wireless data caps and data coverage charges, and ensuring that critical wildfire safety preparation work continues.



Click [here](#) for details on the measures the CPUC is taking. See the [California Public Utilities Commission](#) website for more information.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES WILL CONTINUE:

- **The City of Sebastopol will not turn off water due to nonpayment.** The City recognizes the hardship that the pandemic and resulting Shelter in Place Orders, have created in our community, and will temporarily suspend non-emergency turnoffs and late fees.
- **PG&E will not cut off power due to nonpayment.** PG&E voluntarily implemented a moratorium on service disconnections for non-payment, effective immediately. This suspension will apply to both residential and commercial customers and will remain in effect until further notice.
- **Recology will not suspend trash service due to nonpayment.** Recology understands that customers are starting to request delay of payments or payment plans due to the circumstances, and they are sensitive to what the community is going through. Recology will not stop service due to non-payment at this time.

Click [here](#) for more information on Essential Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INSTALLS NEW WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION

The Public Works Department purchased and installed a new water bottle filling station in the Downtown Plaza. Not only does this help with a reduction in waste by utilizing reusable containers for water, it also provides a lower fountain specifically designed for our four-legged friends.



ONLINE EDUCATION RESOURCES



See the [Sonoma County Office of Education](#) website for news and information about Sonoma County schools.

The [PBS LearningMedia](#) website has several free online resources including standards-aligned videos, interactives, lesson plans, and more. The website also includes [PreK-12 Resources for Emergency Closings](#) that include activities, lesson plans, and videos organized by grade and subject area.

NEED HELP WITH ESSENTIAL RESOURCES?

Visit the [2-1-1 Free Referral Service](#) website if you have questions or needs.

For additional assistance, resources, and help with essential needs, see the [SoCo Emergency](#) resources webpage.

SEBASTOPOL NOON ROTARY HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES IN SEBASTOPOL



The Sebastopol Noon Rotary has been very gracious and is giving out funds for the Sebastopol Chamber of Commerce to distribute to small businesses in Sebastopol with store fronts. You will find the link on the front page of our website <https://www.sebastopol.org>. Click on the link [Small Business Relief 2020](#). Complete the application and email to linda@sebastopol.org. Applications will be reviewed and awarded.

SERVICES AVAILABLE FROM LEGAL AID OF SONOMA COUNTY

As the COVID-19 event continues, residents may find themselves in need of legal services to address domestic violence, housing, veterans, disaster response resources, employment and elder issues.

Although the business office is closed, Legal Aid staff is working remotely and available to provide services to those in need.



Visit the [Legal Aid of Sonoma County](#) website for information about:

- Legal Aid Program Information
- Domestic Violence Information
- Information for Tenants
- Elder Services Available During COVID-19 Duration

NOTE: The above information is also available en Español at the link above.

The Legal Aid of Sonoma County has also provided updated information about restraining orders and court dates during court closure, and a cover letter template for you to provide to your housing provider in the event you are unable to pay your rent.

[Information About Restraining Orders and Court Dates During Closure \(English\)](#)
[Information About Restraining Orders and Court Dates During Closure \(En Español\)](#)

[Legal Aid Cover Letter for COVID-19 Tenant Template \(English\)](#)
[Legal Aid Cover Letter for COVID-19 Tenant Template \(En Español\)](#)

OPEN BUSINESSES



Be sure to contact them first as this information may change from day to day.

[Sonoma West Times & News](#) list of open businesses

[Sebastopol Chamber of Commerce](#) list of open businesses

[Press Democrat](#) list of open businesses

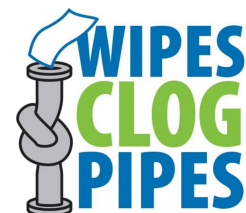
Designated as an essential business, the Sunday Farmer's Market on the Plaza is currently open and taking safety precautions and practicing social distancing. Check their [website](#) for more information.

The City of Sebastopol is compiling a list of open essential businesses. If your business supplies essential services, please email business@CityOfSebastopol.org with details such as offerings, days/hours and any special services like online ordering, takeout, delivery, curbside pickup, and special hours for seniors, at-risk, or first responders.

When visiting local businesses for essential needs, please wear a face covering or mask and maintain social distance.

DON'T FLUSH WIPES!

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.



GOING GROCERY SHOPPING?



Grocery store employees are working to re-stock shelves and make sure grocery stores are cleaned frequently to prevent the spread of COVID-19. If you're going shopping, [here](#) are tips to stay safe. And remember buy only what you need, there's enough for all!

REMINDER: Face coverings are now required for everyone. 6-ft social

distancing rule still applies.

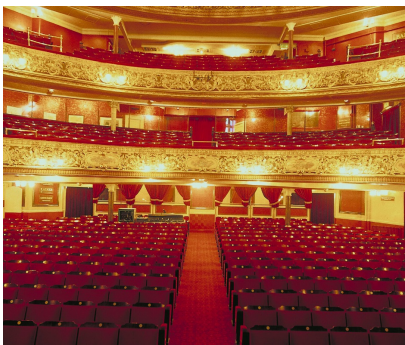
TIPS: FUN THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR KIDS

Give everyone a brain workout:

- Have each child work on their school assignments.
- Have family reading time and read together.
- Have your kids write and illustrate a short story.
- Have your kids write and send letters to senior assisted living facilities to share positivity with the elderly in the community.
- Have each kid write letters or emails to friends and family members.
- Start a story and have each family member add to the story.



TIPS: WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED



Spend a night at the opera! New York's Metropolitan Opera is offering free streaming of shows nightly.

Click the link for a schedule <https://www.metopera.org/user-information/nightly-met-opera-streams/>

These tips are based on recommendations from our insurer Aetna.

Contact
Us



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707-823-1153

www.CityofSebastopol.org