



City of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

www.CityofSebastopol.org

April 24 - April 30 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](#).

**KNOW SOMEONE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER?
FORWARD THIS EMAIL AND CLICK TO SUBSCRIBE.**

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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 keep up with news and updates by following the City's [Facebook](#) page and checking out Council videos.

Engineering Department:

- Caltrans will be starting ADA work in Downtown Sebastopol starting May 4, 2020. This work involves enhancements to numerous intersections including ADA curb ramps, curb/gutter work, sidewalk repair, and driveway repairs. Two intersections will have traffic signal enhancements which will include new signal poles and mast arms. Work will be performed from Keating Avenue to Willow Street and from McKinley Street to the Joe Rodota Trail. Click [here](#) for more information.

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.

SEBASTOPOL YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

MARCH

Michael Elson - Fire Department - 30 years

Thomas Leach - Fire Department - 10 years

Mary Gourley - City Administration - 25 years

JUNE

Maria Pennacchio - Police Reserve - 20 years

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!



REGIONAL WILDFIRE SAFETY WEBINAR - MAY 6, 2020



As we all work to fight coronavirus (COVID-19), we also know wildfire season is around the corner. PG&E is working to prevent wildfires and reduce the impact of Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events. This essential work for the safety of customers and communities will continue as long as they can perform it safely for both employees and customers. The focus of these efforts, and the sole purpose of a PSPS event, is to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires during severe fire-risk weather.

You are invited to join PG&E for an interactive webinar with details about their plans for this year. You will hear about work in your community, have the opportunity to ask questions of PG&E subject matter experts and share your feedback.

Regional Wildfire Safety Webinar – Sonoma and Napa counties

5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 6

Register and access by clicking this link: <https://bit.ly/3eCqzHf>

Toll-Free Attendee Dial In: 855-247-4312

Conference ID: 7897986

Customers and participants who do not have access to internet are highly encouraged to use the toll-free dial-in feature to listen to the presentation.

Topics will include:

- Making PSPS events smaller in size, shorter in duration and smarter for customers
- PG&E's wildfire prevention plans
- Progress on key safety initiatives in your community
- Resources to prepare for wildfire season

For a list of all the webinars that PG&E has planned, and to learn more about wildfire efforts and how you can prepare, visit www.pge.com/wildfiresafety.

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.

VIDEO UPDATE FROM FIRE CHIEF BILL BRAGA

You've probably been seeing weekly [video updates](#) from Mayor Patrick Slayter, but this week we've also got an update from Sebastopol Fire Chief Bill Braga.

Fire Chief Bill Braga fills us in on how members of the Fire Department use face coverings when responding to calls for medical assistance. Click [here](#) to watch.

UPDATE FROM
SEBASTOPOL
FIRE CHIEF
BILL BRAGA



ALEX O'NEILL ROA IS SEBASTOPOL'S FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR!



Congratulations to Alex O'Neill Roa, Sebastopol's 2020 Firefighter of the Year! Alex has spent 5 years of service with the Sebastopol Fire Department. Prior to his service in Sebastopol, Alex spent 5 years with San Luis Obispo County Fire Department. He is a certified Fire Operator/Engineer, Emergency Medical Technician, and Swiftwater Rescue Technician.

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:** [Planning Commission Meeting of May 12, 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:** [Design Review Board Meeting of May 6, 2020 @ 4:00 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:

The Planning Commission and Design Review Board met on April 28 for a special meeting for a Housing Law presentation. The Planning Commission elected Evert Fernandez as its new Chair, and Paul Fritz as its Vice Chair.

MEETING PREVIEWS:

The **Design Review Board** will hold its regular meeting on May 6, 4 pm, to hear a Design Review application for 6950 Burnett Street, for a building renovation and facade improvements.

The **Public Arts Committee** will hold its regular meeting on May 6, 10:30 a.m., to discuss its Mobile Art map/app initiative.

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>

SONOMA COUNTY'S CENSUS RESPONSE RATE IS STRONG

The city response rates remain strong with eight of the nine cities in Sonoma County now surpassing the 60% total self-response rate exceeding the state and national total self-response. As of April 28th, Sebastopol (68.1%) is neck and neck with Petaluma (68.4%). Let's surge ahead, be sure to respond today! You can track community response rates for the most current numbers [here](#).

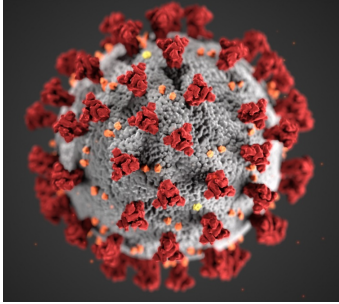


Thank you for your participation and remember if you haven't responded yet you can still get counted. Responding to the 2020 Census is our civic duty and affects the allocation of funding for our community's public resources, how we plan for the future, and our voice in government. For more information and to respond online go to 2020census.gov.

CREDIBLE SOURCES FOR COVID-19 UPDATES

[California Department of Public Health](#)

[County of Sonoma Department of Health Services](#)



[SoCo Emergency Page](#)

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

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

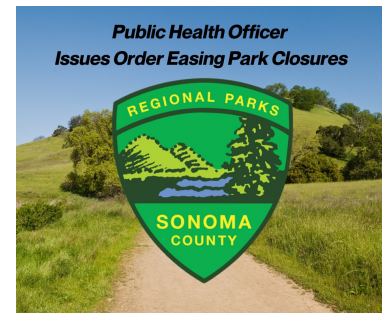
WEEKLY COVID-19 VIDEO UPDATES

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

HEALTH OFFICER EASES RESTRICTIONS ON SONOMA COUNTY PARK CLOSURES

On April 28, 2020, Sonoma County's health officer issued a modified parks closure order to allow residents to walk or bike to parks from their homes beginning April 29, 2020.

The order by Dr. Sundari Mase allows people to walk or cycle into their nearest parks for basic exercise. Driving to a park is not allowed. Parking lots, restrooms, playgrounds, picnic areas and sports courts will remain closed, as will Sonoma Coast beaches.



See the press release, order, and FAQs below for more details and specifics pertaining to the revised order.

[Order of the Health Officer of the County of Sonoma: Amended Parks Closure Order \(English\)](#)

[Orden de la oficial de salud del condado de Sonoma No C19-10: Orden modificada del cierre de parques \(En Español\)](#)

[Press Release \(English\)](#)

[Press Release \(En Español\)](#)

[FAQs \(English\)](#)

[FAQs \(En Español\)](#)

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.

SEBASTOMASKS ARE HERE TO HELP SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19



SebastoMasks are here thanks to the support of the Sebastopol City Council, City Manager's office, and generous members of the Sebastopol community. Free, high-quality, locally made masks with the City's logo will be made available to vulnerable members of the community, those in need of face coverings who may not have the financial resources to provide their own, as well as to people who may find themselves out in public without a face covering.

Members of the Sebastopol Police and Fire Departments will carry a supply of SebastoMasks and distribute them as needed. Fire Chief and Emergency Manager Bill Braga will distribute a supply to local senior communities, and the masks will also be given to drivers on the Sebastopol bus lines to offer to riders who may need one.

"Now that face coverings are mandatory when in public spaces, 'SebastoMasks' are not only practical necessities, but also great educational tools for our safety officers to share and initiate discussions on the importance of following Public Health orders for the good of all," said Mayor Patrick Slayter.

While the masks are not available to the population at large, SebastoMasks may be requested by at-risk community members by calling City Hall at (707) 823-1153 or emailing mgourley@CityofSebastopol.org.

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.

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

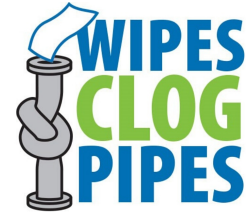
Designated as an essential business, the Sunday Farmer's Market on the Plaza is currently open and taking safety precautions and practicing social distancing. Check their [website](#) for more information.

The City of Sebastopol has compiled 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?



Heading to the grocery store? Remember, don't crowd the checkout stand and avoid unnecessary handling of items. Together, we can prevent the spread. And, remember: Buy Smart and Don't Overfill Our Carts, there's enough for all!

distancing rule still applies.

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



The Sebastopol Center for the Arts has gone virtual with online exhibits, lectures, and classes including a "How to Draw" series that teaches kids to how to draw a different animal each week. Click [here](#) for more information.

TIPS: FUN THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR KIDS

Get creative in the kitchen:

- Try a new recipe and have the kids help.
- Let your child help with meals by making easy dishes.
- Make “slime” and try other easy “kitchen chemistry” experiments.



TIPS: WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED



Have a family game night or do puzzles together. Put away your devices and play a board or card game, do trivia challenges, or give your brain a workout with boxed puzzles.

These tips are based on recommendations from our insurer Aetna.

Contact
Us



7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472

707-823-1153

www.CityofSebastopol.org