



## City of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

[www.CityofSebastopol.org](http://www.CityofSebastopol.org)

### April 3 - April 9 Special Weekly Edition of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

Please visit the City of Sebastopol website at [www.CityOfSebastopol.org](http://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](#).

*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](mailto:info@cityofsebastopol.org); or call **707-823-7863** and leave a message and someone will respond to you.
- If you would like to renew or apply for a business license click [here](#), or you can email inquiries to [businesslicense@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:businesslicense@cityofsebastopol.org).

### **City Manager's Office:**

- City Hall staff are available by phone or email for questions. Please email [info@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:info@cityofsebastopol.org); or call **707-823-1153** and leave a message and someone will respond to you.
- City staff continuing to work on budget preparations.

### **Engineering Department:**

- The Engineering Department is using this time to prepare contracts, prepare design drawings in-house, and prepare bid packages so that when construction activities are allowed to resume the City is immediately ready to get going on all projects.

### **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 - March 30 - April 5](#)

#### **Public Works Department:**

- Water and sewer utility systems continue to be monitored and maintained.
  - Maintenance of parks and public spaces continues at a reduced schedule.
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## **FIRE SAFETY**

The [2020 Weed Abatement Program](#) for the City of Sebastopol is now in progress, under the direction of the Fire Chief. Letters will be mailed out later this month.



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!

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE SEBSATOPOL FIRE CHIEF**

*"The Volunteer Firefighters of the Sebastopol Fire Department continue to respond to all types of Emergency Calls for Service. Our members are very dedicated and remain well trained during these unprecedented and challenging times. Rest assured that our firefighters are ready to serve you with any emergency. Remember to Shelter-in-Place, Stay-at-Home, Practice Social Distancing, and Be Safe".*

**-Bill Braga, Sebastopol Fire Chief**

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## **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.

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## **CITY MEETINGS**

**During the Shelter in Place Order, all meetings are virtual only.**

#### **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, send an email to [mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org)
  
- **Next Meeting:** [City Council Meeting of April 21, 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](mailto:kvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.org)
- **Next Meeting: [Planning Commission Meeting of 04/14/2020 @ 7:00 PM -CANCELLED](#) (NOTE: Planning Commission Meetings in April will not be Livestreamed, but will be uploaded after the meeting.)**

**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](mailto:amontes@cityofsebastopol.org)
- **Next Meeting: [Design Review Board Meeting of 04/15/2020 @ 4:00 PM](#) (NOTE: Design Review Board Meetings in April will not be Livestreamed, but will be uploaded after the meeting.)**

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




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## CREDIBLE SOURCES FOR COVID-19 UPDATES

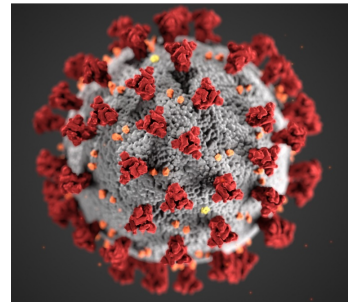
[California Department of Public Health](#)

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

[SoCo Emergency Page](#)

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

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




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## WEEKLY COVID-19 VIDEO UPDATES

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

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## DETAILED SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE COUNTY HEALTH ORDER EXTENDING THE SHELTER IN PLACE

How does the March 31 extension of the Sonoma County Shelter in Place Order differ from the original Order which



was set to expire April 7? See the [Detailed Summary of Changes](#) for more information.

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## MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS

The City Council strongly believes that during this crisis both residential and commercial tenants should be protected from eviction resulting from nonpayment of rent due to the financial impacts.

Fortunately, there are three such measures recently put into effect:

1. The [County of Sonoma's residential eviction moratorium](#), which applies in Sebastopol as well as the other cities in the County;
2. Governor Newsome's [Executive Order N-37-20](#) which provides similar protection throughout the entire state, and
3. Recent [action by the Judicial Council](#) which prevents the filing of both residential and commercial eviction actions, as well as judicial mortgage foreclosure actions in the State.

The City will make more detailed information on these measures available in future editions. Tenants faced with an action appearing to be in violation of this protection should seek legal advice immediately.

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## 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. We want to reassure our residents that the water and sewer systems are operating as usual. During this national emergency, the City of Sebastopol will temporarily suspend non-emergency turnoffs and late fees. Once the crisis has passed, the City will work with customers to set up bill payment plans.
  - **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. To further support customers who may be impacted by the pandemic, PG&E will offer its most flexible pay plans to customers who indicate either an impact or hardship as a result of COVID-19. PG&E will continue to monitor current events and identify opportunities to support our customers and communities.
  - **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. If a customer calls in that has been impacted by COVID-19, Recology can work with them to create a payment plan. Additionally, businesses and schools can call to suspend their service at no charge until they open back up again. Recology Customer Service contact info is **1-800-243-0291** and [RecologySonomaMarin@Recology.com](mailto:RecologySonomaMarin@Recology.com).
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## 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.



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## 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.

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## HEALTH OFFICER NOW RECOMMENDS FACE COVERINGS FOR GENERAL PUBLIC IN ALL AGE GROUPS



Following updated information from the Center for Diseases and Control (CDC), the Sonoma County Health Officer now recommends that everyone who leaves home for an essential activity in our community wear a face covering – to the extent possible – such as a scarf, bandana, neck gaiter, or similar garment. Although ordinary face coverings are not proven to protect the wearer, when worn by someone with COVID-19, they may reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others. Since not everyone with COVID-19 knows they are sick, wearing a face covering helps make sure you don't unknowingly affect others. As a reminder, wearing a face covering or mask is NOT a substitute for social distancing. Please continue to adhere to social distancing practices even when wearing one. More information [here](#).

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## SONOMA COUNTY PROPERTY TAX WAIVERS BEING CONSIDERED

### Property Tax Deadline is April 10, 2020

Penalty Waivers Will Be Considered Due to COVID-19 Impacts

The Sonoma County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office (ACTTC) is aware of the impacts the COVID-19 emergency has on the community and shares the community's concerns. The ACTTC is willing to help people in times of emergency and disaster. After April 10th, the ACTTC will consider written requests for penalty waiver due to the COVID-19 emergency on a case-by-case basis. The COVID-19 penalty waiver application and information will be



## [PRESS RELEASE](#)

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### 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.

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

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### 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. Even wipes labeled "flushable" will clog pipes and interfere with sewage collection and treatment throughout the state. Preventing sewer spills is important, especially during this COVID-19 emergency, for the protection of public health and the environment. Please do not flush disinfectant wipes or paper towels down the toilet.



### GOING GROCERY SHOPPING?

California Grocers Association



#### Shopping Tips

- Only visit the grocery store when it's essential. Buy what you need for the week.
- Wash or disinfect your re-usable grocery bags after each use.
- Don't bring extra people to the store.
- Practice social distancing within the store.
- Use a produce bag to pick your produce.
- Avoid unnecessary handling of all items in store.
- Don't crowd the checkstand.
- Treat grocery employees with kindness.
- Be aware of your store's special hours or procedures.
- Allow for extra time in the store.

Buy Smart. Don't Overfill Your Cart #Enough4All

Bring a list and practice social distancing within the store. Check out additional information on safe shopping [here](#) as we work together to prevent the spread. And remember Buy Smart and Don't Overfill Your Cart, there's enough for all!

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### TIPS: FUN THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR KIDS

Get outside and get some fresh air:

- Play with sidewalk chalk.
- Put painters tape on wooden fences and create

designs with chalk.

- Have the kids help with yardwork.
- Take inventory of the plants and wildlife in your yard.
- Organize different races in the backyard.
- Walk, play with, and brush your dog or cat.
- Wash and clean out the car and the kids keep any change they find.



## TIPS: WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED



Go on virtual lunch and dinner dates. With the help of a smart phone or laptop you can video call family and friends and enjoy a meal and relaxing conversation together.

## TIPS: WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU'RE FEELING LONELY

Stay in touch with supportive family and friends. Talk to them several times a day to cut down on your feelings of loneliness.



**These tips are based on recommendations from our insurer Aetna.**

Contact  
Us



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707-823-1153

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