



# City of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

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

## May 15 - May 21 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](#).

[View as Webpage](#)

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## 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.

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

**Fire Department:**

- The Fire Department is open and continuing to provide first response and emergency services as usual.
- The Fire Department lobby is open during normal business hours to accommodate the Building Department.

**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 - May 10 - May 17](#)

**Public Works Department:**

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

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## SEBASTOPOL BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES OPENINGS

The City of Sebastopol has the following committee position openings. Please see the links below for details on the positions and how to apply.

**Public Arts Committee**

[Job Notice](#)

[General Application](#)

**Climate Action Sub-committee**

[Job Notice](#)

[General Application](#)

**Citizen Liaison to the SCTA/RCPA Climate Action Advisory Committee**

[Job Notice](#)

[Application Form](#)

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## SEBASTOPOL YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

**JUNE**

Maria Pennacchio - Police Reserve - 20 years

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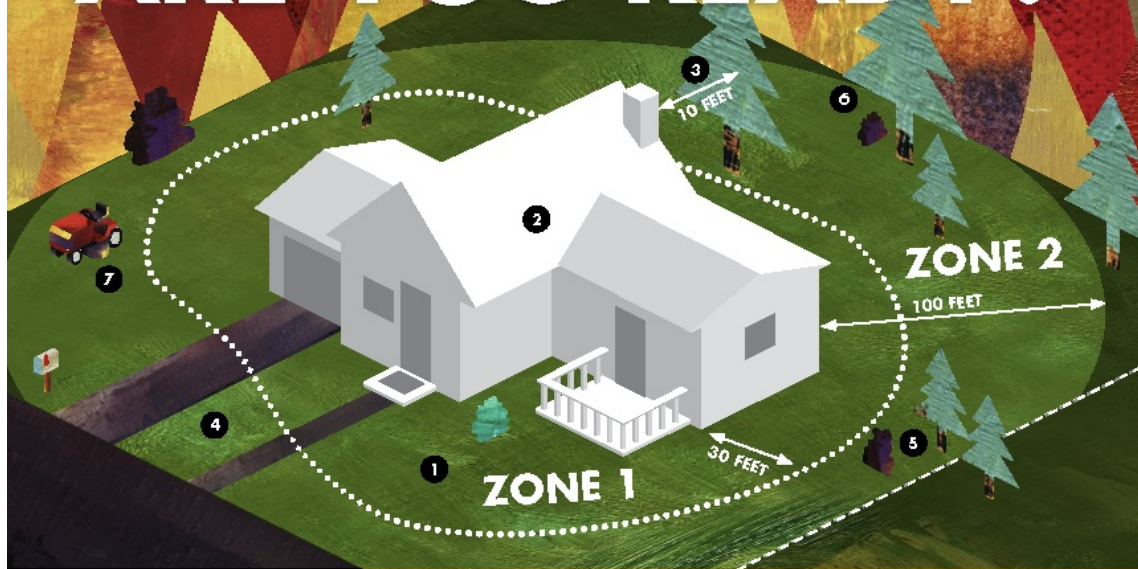
## FIRE SAFETY



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!

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# WILDFIRE IS COMING. ARE YOU READY?



Defensible Space is your property's front line defense against wildfire. Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home can dramatically increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending your property. 100 feet of defensible space is required by law.\*



\*For more information on creating defensible space and legal requirements visit

[READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG](http://READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG)

## TWO ZONES MAKE UP THE REQUIRED 100 FEET OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE:

### ZONE 1: 30 feet of Lean, Clean & Green

- 1 Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
- 2 Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- 3 Keep tree branches 10 feet away from your chimney and other trees.

### ZONE 2: 30-100 feet of Reduced Fuel

- 4 Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- 5 Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- 6 Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.

### Use Equipment Properly to Keep from Sparking a Wildfire

- 7 Mow before 10 a.m., and never on a hot or windy day. String trimmers are a safer option (vs. lawnmowers) for clearing vegetation.



### VERTICAL SPACING

Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed. This eliminates a vertical "fire ladder."



### HORIZONTAL SPACING

Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants, the amount of spacing will depend on how steep the slope is and the size of the plants.

## 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.

## SEBASTOPOL VITALITY PROJECT & BUSINESS IMPACT SURVEY



If you are a business owner within Sebastopol City Limits we strongly encourage you to take part in our Community Vitality Project.

The City of Sebastopol recognizes the importance of understanding the challenges and needs facing our business community during these unprecedented times. That is why the City of Sebastopol has paired up with the local firm CoMission to launch the Sebastopol Vitality Project. As a local business owner, your participation in our initial survey is crucial to providing needed insight on what is happening in our local business community.

The City of Sebastopol and our collaborative effort with CoMission is determined to understand these changes as they are occurring and develop fast acting solutions for businesses in need. Your participation in this survey and our ongoing discussions will inform what solutions will be proposed as well as what resources can be brought to bear in facing our collective new business paradigm.

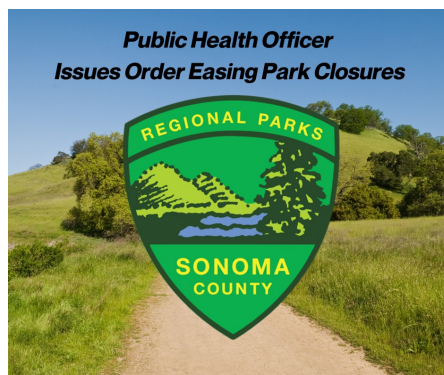
[Take The Survey in English](#)

[Take The Survey in Spanish](#)

Please visit the project [website](#) for more information on this project.

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## PARKS ACCESS EXPANDED IN NEW HEALTH ORDER



On May 12, 2020, Sonoma County's health officer further eased restrictions on outdoor recreation during the Covid-19 pandemic by issuing an order that allows park agencies to reopen some parking lots and sports facilities.

The health order means residents can drive to inland parks beginning Wednesday, May 13, 2020. The order keeps Sonoma Coast parking areas closed to prevent crowding at beaches but allows coastal residents to walk or bike to nearby parks during limited hours.

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

[Press Release](#)

[Press Release \(En Español\)](#)

[Order of the Health Officer of the County of Sonoma: Amended Parks Closure Order](#)  
[Orden de la Oficial de Salud Del Condado de Sonoma: Orden Modificada de Cierre de Parques](#)

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## URGENCY ITEM TO ALLOW TEMPORARY OUTDOOR DINING

In an effort to help bolster local business, City Manager Larry McLaughlin brought forth an urgency item at the May 19 City Council meeting that temporarily allows restaurants to offer outdoor seating as soon as the State of California gives the go-ahead (anticipated to be announced in Governor Newsom's May 22 update).

The Council voted unanimously in favor of the urgency item which will remain in effect until the June 2 City Council meeting, when

a longer term solution will be voted upon. Specific details are being ironed out and conditions will apply, but broad strokes are that the City will temporarily make some city-owned parking and other areas available for outdoor dining and will offer reduced or waived permitting fees and processes.

The City is will also working with Caltrans to allow parts of Caltrans-owned roadways to be used for “parklets” which re-purpose parking spaces. Restaurants must receive permission from the city to participate.

Interested restaurants may contact the Sebastopol Planning Department at (707) 823-6167 or via email at [business@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:business@cityofsebastopol.org).



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## 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:** Members of the public may submit written emails/comments for items not on the agenda either by email as a public record or by public comment during the public comment period of the virtual City Council meeting. All written emails/comments will be provided to the entire City Council as a public record but will not be read into the minutes at the City Council meeting. Written emails/comments should be received by 5:00 pm of the Council Meeting Date for submission to the entire City Council prior to the meeting and will be included as a part of the record of the meeting. Please submit your comments via email for this meeting to [mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org)
  - **For Items Listed on the Agenda:** Members of the public may submit written emails/comments for items listed on the agenda either by email as a public record or by public comment during the public comment period of the agenda item during the virtual City Council meeting. **Email comments must identify the Agenda Item Number in the subject line of the email.** All written emails/comments will be provided to the entire City Council as a public record but will not be read into the minutes at the City Council meeting. Written emails/comments should be received by 5:00 pm of the Council Meeting Date for submission to the entire City Council prior to the meeting and will be included as a part of the record of the meeting. Please submit your comments via email for this meeting to [mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org)
- **Next Meeting:** [City Council Meeting of June 2, 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 [ksvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:ksvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.org)
- **Next Meeting:** [Planning Commission Meeting of May 26, 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](mailto:amontes@cityofsebastopol.org)
- **Next Meeting:** [Design Review Board Meeting of June 3, 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](mailto:amontes@cityofsebastopol.org)
- **Next Meeting:** [Public Arts Committee Meeting of June 3, 2020 @ 10:30 AM](#)



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## **PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS**

### **MEETING REVIEWS:**

At the 5/12 Planning Commission meeting, the Commission held a public hearing to consider an application for a smoke shop at 207 N Main St, to continue to operate a non-conforming use (smoke shop). They directed staff to develop findings to deny the project. The project has since been withdrawn from the applicant (so no further action will be taken by the Commission).

### **MEETING PREVIEWS:**

**No new meeting previews.**

*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>*

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## **NO FIREWORKS IN SEBASTOPOL THIS YEAR**



At its May 19 meeting, the Sebastopol City Council voted 3-2 (Councilmembers Carnacchi and Hinton in the minority) to ban the sale and use of fireworks within Sebastopol City Limits this year.

From the [Staff Report](#): "Typically, the City would recommend approval for these [fireworks sale] permits; however, with the COVID 19 pandemic, this is not a typical permit and requires...what is best for the health and safety of our community during this serious public health threat to all individuals."

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## HEALTH OFFICER AMENDS SHELTER-IN-PLACE ORDER ALLOWING FURTHER BUSINESS REOPENING

On May 14, 2020, the Sonoma County Health Officer amended the Shelter-in-Place Health Order allowing the reopening of additional businesses that provide services, effective at 12:01 a.m. on Friday May 15, 2020.



See the [Press Release](#) for additional information and a list of businesses that are allowed to operate and people are permitted to leave home and travel to work in or patronize them.

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## SEBASTOPOL CENSUS RESPONSE RATE STILL GOING STRONG



As of noon on May 7, 2020, Sonoma County (61.40%) surpassed the 60% total response rate, and Sebastopol (73.00%), Petaluma (72.3%), Cloverdale (70.3%), and Windsor (70.0%) all have exceeded the 70% total response rate with five other Sonoma County cities exceeding the 65% total response rate. May is starting off strong with increasing gains in the total response rate across most counties and cities.

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](https://2020census.gov).

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## CREDIBLE SOURCES FOR COVID-19 UPDATES

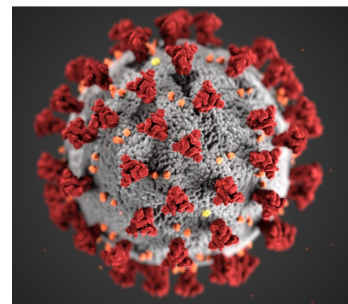
[California Department of Public Health](#)

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

[SoCo Emergency Page](#)

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

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



# 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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## 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.

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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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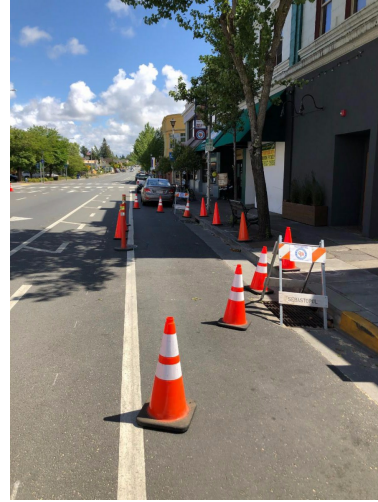
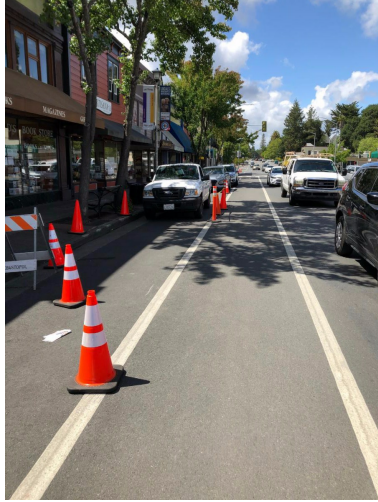
## SEBASTOPOL CURB SIDE DELIVERY LOCATIONS

The city has set up the first two curbside pickup locations for businesses in Downtown Sebastopol.

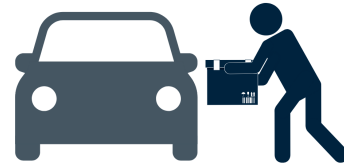
### Locations:

150 N. Main Street  
124 S. Main Street





The city is in the process of providing additional curb side delivery locations in an effort to help our local businesses. If your business will have curb side delivery please call **707-823-6167** or email [business@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:business@cityofsebastopol.org) with this information as this information will help guide the City to locations that will be set aside.



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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.

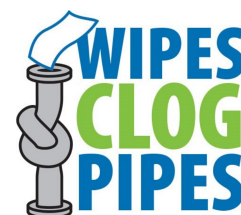
The City of Sebastopol has compiled a [list](#) of open essential businesses. If your business supplies essential services, please email [business@CityOfSebastopol.org](mailto:business@CityOfSebastopol.org) with details such as offerings, days/hours and any special services like online ordering, takeout, 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.

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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. Please do not flush disinfectant wipes or paper towels down the toilet.



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## GOING GROCERY SHOPPING?

**BUY SMART**   
Don't Overfill Your Cart

#Enough4All



Going grocery shopping? Check out these [tips](#) to protect you, your family and grocery workers, and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. And remember Please Buy Smart and Don't Overfill Your Cart, there's #Enough4All

**REMINDER: Face coverings are now required for everyone. 6-ft social distancing rule still applies.**

## SEBASTOPOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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

#### More fun things to do:

- Facetime with family members and friends.
- Team up and clean/organize kid spaces and donate items they no longer need.
- Have a movie or TV marathon.



### TIPS: WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED



Get up and get moving. You can exercise right at home and find various workouts online, on streaming services, and fitness apps.

These tips are based on recommendations from our insurer Aetna.

Contact  
Us



7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472

707-823-1153

