



City of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

www.CityofSebastopol.org

May 29 - June 4 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](#).

[View as Webpage](#)

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The City of Sebastopol
CONGRATULATES
ALL WEST COUNTY
GRADUATES of 2020



ANALAY HIGH SCHOOL



LAGUNA HIGH SCHOOL




EL MOLINO HIGH SCHOOL

BANNERS & POSTERS CONGRATULATING THE CLASS OF 2020 APPEAR AROUND WEST COUNTY

Banners and posters congratulating the Class of 2020 have appeared around West County in an effort to aid in the celebration of this milestone moment for all the graduates.

The Analay/Laguna/El Molino banners were organized by Councilmember Neysa Hinton and Public Works. Brookhaven banners were organized by Councilmember Sarah Glade



Gurney and Public Works. Graduate posters were a joint project between The City of Sebastopol, Sebastopol Downtown Association, Sebastopol Area Chamber of Commerce, Anly and Laguna principals Erin Elliott and Lindsey Apkarian, participating Sebastopol merchants, and Community Outreach Coordinator Holly Hansen. The project was headed up by Councilmember Hinton.

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.

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**.

Public Works Department:

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

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](#)

Citizen Liaison to the SCTA/RCPA Climate Action Advisory Committee

[Job Notice](#)

[Application Form](#)

SEBASTOPOL YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

JUNE

Maria Pennacchio - Police Reserve - 20 years

SEBASTOPOL HAS PEACEFUL PROTEST IN HONOR OF GEORGE FLOYD





Image: [@SonomaWestTimesAndNews](#)
Facebook Page

On Wednesday June 3rd, approximately 200 protesters peacefully assembled, in compliance with traffic and other laws, along the sidewalks of Sebastopol Avenue and North Main Street, to protest the killing of George Floyd.

Members of the group asked the Sebastopol Police Department for permission to block the entire intersection for a period of nine minutes, in memory of George Floyd. The Sebastopol Police Department obliged them, and in order to make it safe for the protesters, the Acting Chief of Police Greg Devore and Sergeant David Ginn used a patrol vehicle to block the intersection and patrolled the intersection on foot.

After the 9 minute event the protesters willingly moved back to the sidewalks to allow the roadway to be reopened for vehicle traffic.

SEBASTOPOL & SONOMA COUNTY RESIDENTS CONTINUE WITH STRONG CENSUS RESPONSE

As of Thursday May 29th, Sonoma County (63.8%) continues to exceed the state total response rate and Sonoma County cities continue to perform well with Sebastopol (76.2%) and Petaluma (74.7%) leading the pack with Cloverdale (72.6%) and Windsor (72.5%) virtually tied and Cotati (71.7%) right on their heels. The remaining cities are all hovering just above the 68% total response rate.

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.



ARE YOU READY FOR FIRE SEASON?

Now is the time to prepare! CalFire has several resources to help you make these preparations.

[Homeowners Checklist: How to Make Your Home Fire Safe](#)
[Ready, Set, Go! Your Personal Wildfire Action Plan](#)
[Defensible Space and Hardening Your Home](#)

See the [Fire Department Page](#) for More Information and Additional Resources

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.*



ONE LESS SPARK
ONE LESS WILDFIRE

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

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.

SEBASTOPOL FIRE DEPARTMENT HOLDING FIELD DRILL JUNE 14TH

The Sebastopol Fire Department will be holding a "Field Drill" in various neighborhoods and areas of Sebastopol to test radio communications and signal strength on June 14th beginning at 2pm.

See the [Field Drill PSA](#) for more information.



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

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
 - **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
- **Next Meeting:** [City Council Meeting of June 16, 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
- **Next Meeting:** [Planning Commission Meeting of June 9, 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 June 17, 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:** [Special Public Arts Committee Meeting of June 10, 2020 @ 10:30 AM](#)



PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

MEETING PREVIEWS:

The Planning Commission, is meeting on June 9, 2020 to review a use permit application requesting approval to operate a 24/7 fitness facility, and a personal storage use at 742 South Main St.

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>

PARKS ACCESS EXPANDED IN NEW HEALTH ORDER



On June 2nd, 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 coastal parking lots and restore daytime visiting hours at beaches.

The order means that as of Wednesday, June 3 residents may drive to Sonoma County Regional Coastal Parks and trails. The order replaces a May 12 order that allowed only walk-in coastal access and closed beaches between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. State Coastal parks had not been re-opened as of press time.

See the [Full Press Release](#) for more information.

CITY DISTRIBUTES DOOR HANGERS WITH A VARIETY OF

RESOURCES FOR RESIDENTS

Door hangers created by Mayor Patrick Slayter have been distributed to every residential address in Sebastopol over the last two weeks by a team of volunteers trained in how to handle them hygienically. The door hangers contain a wide variety of resources for residents. If you didn't receive one, or would like another, please contact City Hall via email at info@cityofsebastopol.org; or call **707-823-1153**.



COVID-19 PANDEMIC INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Public health orders are in effect in Sonoma County to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. All residents must follow the guidelines provided by the County of Sonoma and the State of California. These guidelines are designed to provide for everyday needs and recreation while protecting the health and wellness of our community.

When leaving home everyone must:

- Keep a distance of at least 6 feet between themselves and anyone not in their immediate household.
- Wear a face covering in public when indoors and outdoors when it may not be possible to maintain the 6-foot social distancing requirement.

A face covering may be a bandana, scarf, or home-made mask. The general public is asked not to use N-95 or surgical masks as these are needed for health care workers and first responders.

GENERAL RESOURCES

- 211 Sonoma County
211 should be your first stop for nearly all COVID-19 questions. It is a program of United Way of the Wine Country and is the free comprehensive information and referral service for Sonoma County. 211 provides information on food assistance, financial resources, general COVID-19 questions, and more.
Telephone: 211
Text: send your zip code to 898211
www.211sonoma.org
- Sonoma County Emergency Management Department online information resource.
www.SocoEmergency.org
- The City of Sebastopol has information and resources on its website. City offices are closed to the public but continue to provide essential services.
707 - 823 - 1153
info@CityOfSebastopol.org
www.CityOfSebastopol.org

EMERGENCY ALERTS

- Receive urgent notifications about local emergencies and advisories from emergency management and law enforcement agencies.
SocoAlert: Sign up online at www.SoCoAlert.com
Nixle: Sign up online at local.nixle.com or Text your Zip Code to 888777

This information is current as of May 10, 2020

EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

- Sonoma County Warm Line provides free, multilingual, private emotional and mental health support.
707 - 565 - 2652
10am to 7pm daily
- National Distress Disaster Helpline is a national toll-free, confidential multilingual helpline.
800 - 985 - 5990
Text: TalkWithUs to 66746
www.disasterdistress.samhsa.gov

FOOD RESOURCES

- Grocery stores and farmer's markets are permitted to be open. Many have special hours for seniors, pregnant women, people with health conditions and health care or emergency workers.
- Call 211 for assistance if you are unable to leave your home or need free or low-cost food resources.
- Redwood Empire Food Bank is in full operation providing fresh, quality food and groceries. Contact the Food Bank for locations and hours.
707 - 523 - 7900
www.refb.org

BUSINESS RESOURCES

- The Sebastopol Chamber of Commerce and the City of Sebastopol have listings of open businesses.
www.sebastopol.org
- Many businesses and restaurants are offering delivery or curbside pickup. Call your favorite local business and ask what special services they are offering.

MEDICAL RESOURCES

If you think you might be ill, please call your primary health care provider rather than going to their office.

- West County Health Centers offers primary medical, dental, behavioral health and wellness services in Sebastopol.
Sebastopol Community Health Center
707 - 824 - 3391
www.wchealth.org

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Call 911
Sebastopol Police and Fire Departments are continuing to provide emergency and non-emergency services as usual.

This information is current as of May 10, 2020

CREDIBLE SOURCES FOR COVID-19 UPDATES

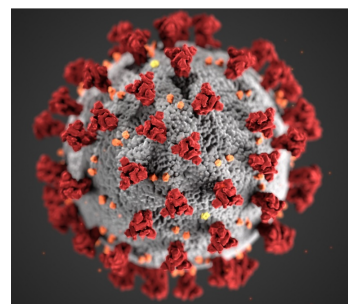
[California Department of Public Health](#)

[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.

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.

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.

CITY APPROVES OUTDOOR DINING ON SIDEWALKS & PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARKING AREAS

In an effort to help bolster local business, City Manager Larry McLaughlin brought forth an urgency item at the May 19th City Council meeting that temporarily allowed restaurants to offer outdoor seating.

At the June 2nd City Council Meeting, the City Council unanimously approved the motion for sidewalks and public and private parking areas to be used for



outside dining for restaurants that need them. The Planning Department has waived application and permitting fees and simplified the application itself.

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.

SEBASTOPOL CURB SIDE DELIVERY LOCATIONS

The city currently has two curb side 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 with this information as this information will help guide the City to locations that will be set aside.



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

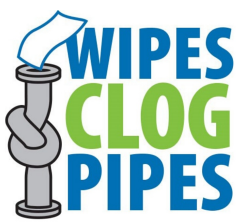
[Press Democrat](#) list of open businesses

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.

TIPS: ACCEPTING DELIVERIES & TAKEOUT ORDERS

The CDC offers some helpful tips for accepting deliveries or takeout orders:

Limit in person contact if possible - pay online or over the phone when you order

Ask for deliveries to be left in a safe place outside your house

Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after accepting deliveries or collecting mail

For more tips visit the CDC [Website](#)



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: VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES



Missing going to the zoo?

Now you can check out what the animals are up to at the San Diego Zoo. Visit their [website](#) to see the live cams for your favorite animals like the tigers, penguins, polar bears, giraffes, and more.

TIPS: FOR SENIORS

The Sebastopol Area Senior Center is offering virtual classes like weekly yoga classes, TED Talks, support groups, and virtual day trips. Check out their upcoming classes and sign up at their [website](#).



Contact
Us



7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472

707-823-1153

www.CityofSebastopol.org