



November-December 2022

The City of Sebastopol community newsletter is one way to stay in touch with what's going on in Sebastopol. Our web site, CityofSebastopol.org is another. It's chock-full of information on City services, public meetings, and community resources. Or, stop by City offices any time we are open!

Year's End Brings Changes to Sebastopol

As 2022 comes to an end, Sebastopol will bid farewell to several long-term members of the city's leadership team and will welcome some new faces.

Sebastopol City Manager/City Attorney Larry McLaughlin announced his upcoming retirement for some time in the coming year. (See following article for additional information).

Ron Nelson, who has served as Sebastopol's Interim Chief of Police since February of this year, was sworn in to a permanent position in that post on November 7th.

Fire Chief Bill Braga is retiring at the end of December after being a member of SFD since 1985 and serving as its Chief since 2011. His replacement has not yet been announced.

This publication went to press before the November election, so watch the city's website and social media for announcements of the three new members of Sebastopol's City Council who will be voted in to replace retiring members Sarah Glade Gurney (18 years), Patrick Slayter (12 years) and Una Glass (8 years).

Ron Nelson Named Chief of Police



Ron Nelson, who most recently served as Sebastopol's Interim Police Chief, was appointed Sebastopol's Chief of Police as of October 30. Nelson has been serving as Interim Chief since August of this year following the departure of Chief Kevin Kilgore and had served as Interim Lieutenant since

September 2020.

He has almost thirty years of experience in law enforcement including twenty-two years with the Santa Rosa Police Department from which he retired in February 2020. Learn more about Chief Nelson's experience and how his affection for the Sebastopol community and the "rare opportunity that leaders hope to have in their careers" enticed him to return to public service after retirement.

Read the full press release here: <https://bit.ly/3DgxmmN>

Sebastopol City Manager Larry McLaughlin Announces Upcoming Retirement



In October, Sebastopol City Manager Larry McLaughlin announced his plans to retire from his joint role as City Manager and City Attorney. McLaughlin gave no set date for his retirement, citing his commitment to providing guidance to the City with recent Department Head retirements, completion

of a Staffing Assessment Needs for the City and ensuring continuity for the City Council, the majority of which will be new to the Council. He will continue to oversee the operation of the City until a final date has been set.

McLaughlin will return to the private Sebastopol law practice that he founded in 1987. His retirement will cap 35 years of public service to the City of Sebastopol. McLaughlin was appointed City Manager in 2013, after having served as Sebastopol's City Attorney since 1987 and interim City Manager for several months prior to his appointment. Read the full press release HERE: <https://bit.ly/3SZGanV>

The Future of Fire and Emergency Services in Sebastopol



Sebastopol City Council's Ad Hoc Fire Committee has been presented with many questions regarding the process being undertaken and the plans being developed for the future of fire and emergency services in

Sebastopol. An FAQ was compiled with all those questions, with complete and factual answers that we hope will help inform our community on this very important issue.

Visit the City's website for more information: <https://bit.ly/3ExLr1A>.

Sign up to receive updates on this project and others here: <https://bit.ly/3U7Ga6I>

The Fire Services Delivery Study is a Project of the City Council.

Make Plans to Celebrate the Holidays in Sebastopol! Do a little holiday shopping, enjoy a meal, and take in one of the fun events happening this season.

Shop Local for the Holidays



The closer you shop to home, the further your money goes. When you buy local, significantly more money recirculates in local communities. When you shop at locally owned, independent businesses more money is kept in the community because local businesses often purchase from other local businesses, service providers and farms. Buying locally helps grow other businesses as well as our region's tax base. Local independent businesses invest 3 times more money back into the local economy than non-local businesses.

Not only does shopping local help other businesses in the community, it helps fund other important services. A whopping 53% of our city's budget comes from sales and other (non-property) taxes. Sales tax revenue is a guaranteed funding source for essential city services, including public safety, code enforcement, parks and landscaping, streets pavement and other essential services.

Chamber of Commerce Annual Tree Lighting Event at the Town Plaza



photo by Laura Hagar

Date: Thursday, December 1, 2022
Time: 5pm to 8pm
Popcorn, hot chocolate, hot cider, cookies, other hot beverages, and more!

Entertainment Schedule coming soon! Visit <https://www.sebastopol.org> for more updates and info.

Free Family Movie Night at Ives Park

Bring a low chair, blanket and the whole family to the Sebastopol Chamber of Commerce's Family Movie Night at Ives Park, Friday December 2. The fun begins at 6:30pm with Mr. Music (AKA Santa), followed by a showing of Elf on the giant outdoor screen. Wine, beer, soft drinks, hot dogs (with vegan option), and popcorn will be available for purchase. Entry is free.



photo by StellarXP

Are You Earthquake Prepared?

Earthquake Warning California is the country's first publicly available, statewide warning system that could give California residents crucial seconds to take cover **before** you feel shaking. Managed by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), Earthquake Warning California uses ground motion sensors from across the state to detect earthquakes before humans can feel them and can notify Californians to "Drop, Cover and Hold On" in advance of an earthquake.



To receive earthquake warnings, individuals and family members can download the MyShake App and ensure phone settings are adjusted to receive emergency alerts, including:

- **MyShake App:** Free smartphone app that provides iPhone and Android users with audio and visual warnings [magnitude 4.5 or higher and Modified Mercalli Intensity III (weak) shaking]. Available in the **Apple App** and **Google Play** stores;
- **Android Earthquake Alerts:** Android phones with updated operating systems are automatically subscribed to Android Earthquake Alerts, which uses the same technology as the MyShake App; and
- **Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs):** No-cost text messages for emergency situations [magnitude 5.0 or higher and Modified Mercalli Intensity IV (light) shaking].

If you live in or travel to areas that could be impacted by an earthquake, preparation is vital, as these events can strike suddenly, at any time, with little warning. Visit <https://myhazards.caloes.ca.gov> to see if you live or work in an area prone to earthquakes.

To learn more about Earthquake Warning California, the MyShake App, or the other earthquake warning resources, visit <https://earthquake.ca.gov>.

Historic Drought Continues

Cooler fall weather is upon us but historic drought conditions continue.



With rainfall and water storage well below average for this time of year, it's important we keep conserving water. Visit the city's Water Conservation Page at www.sebsaveswater.com and the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership at www.savingwaterpartnership.org for water conservation tips and resources.