



November-December, 2019

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!



Tree Lighting

The holiday season gets off to its official start at the annual Tree Lighting and Holiday Celebration. Organized by the Sebastopol Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center, one of the season's most anticipated events will take place in the Plaza on Thursday, December 5 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Festivities include holiday treats, arts and crafts, music, the arrival of Santa by fire truck at 7 p.m., and free horse-drawn carriage rides around the Plaza. The tree lighting also marks the commencement of the illumination of the holiday lights in the Plaza and on Main Street. For more information, please visit the Chamber website at www.sebastopol.org.



Polystyrene Ordinance to be Implemented in November

Sebastopol's new Polystyrene Ordinance, which will prohibit the use and sale of disposable food service ware and other products containing polystyrene foam, will go into effect November 19. The ordinance will also require food establishments and food providers to provide single use straws and utensils upon request only. This is a "model ordinance" developed by the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency and is planned for similar adoptive actions by the other eight cities and the county fairly soon.



Police Chief James Conner Announces Retirement

Sebastopol Police Chief James Conner has announced his retirement effective as of December 27, 2019. Conner's appointment to Chief on November



7, 2017 followed the retirement of Chief Jeffrey Weaver. James Conner joined the Sebastopol Police Department as a Police Officer in April 1996, has served in various roles, including School Resource Officer, Field Training Officer, and Motorcycle Traffic Officer. He was promoted to Police Sergeant, Police Lieutenant, and in November 2013, to Police Captain, in which role he has served as second-in-command of the agency until his appointment as Chief of Police.

Locals Who Make a Difference

Do you know a Sebastopol local who makes a difference in the community? The Locals Who Make a Difference (LWMAD) program recognizes and acknowledges Sebastopol community members for their



contributions in helping to make Sebastopol a better place to live. Nominations for the next LWMD honoree will close on November 1. To nominate someone from the Sebastopol community, learn about past honorees or the program, visit the Locals Who Make a Difference section of the City website: <http://bit.ly/SebLWMAD>



Students from Kagoshima University Visit Sebastopol

Sebastopol World Friends hosted 10 students from Kagoshima University in Japan during the week of September 16. The group participated in events and learning opportunities in and around Sebastopol and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Venture in the Vineyards Raises Funds for Sonoma County Flood Victims



On September 22, Mayor Neysa Hinton spoke at the Urban Land Institute's Young Leaders Group (YLG) Annual Venture in the Vineyards event. Event proceeds, donations from the local land use and real estate business community, and a matching donation from Kaiser Permanente brought event proceeds to a total of \$22,000. 100% of the proceeds will go to the Community Partnership of Sonoma County to help provide emergency housing assistance and financial aid to low income families affected by the Sonoma County floods earlier this year.

Vice Mayor Slayter Cuts Ribbon at Sonoma Clean Power Solar Center

On September 18th, Vice Mayor Patrick Slayter, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for Sonoma Clean Power and Sebastopol's representative to the organization, had the honor of cutting the ribbon on Sonoma Clean Power's new Cloverdale Solar Center. The center started generating power in June of this year. Other guests included the landowners, community leaders, elected officials, SCP Directors, and Enerpac, the developer of the system. <http://bit.ly/SCT24>



Pedline Installation of Sidewalk Markers Completed in October

Have you noticed the new Pedline markers at your feet in the downtown area? Through Cittaslow Sebastopol, the City of Sebastopol has sponsored the PedLine, four color-coded, self-guided walking tours that loop through town. The routes are based on common destinations and designed to give as much exposure to area merchants as possible. Volunteers prepared sidewalks and affixed the color-coded oval markers through the month of October.



Libby Park Playground Equipment Survey Results

The City of Sebastopol is set to replace the playground equipment for 5 to 12 year-olds at Willard F. Libby Park, site of the old "Super Playground" on Valentine and Pleasant Hill next to Brookhaven School. This project is being co-sponsored with Sebastopol Rotary Clubs. A survey was conducted during the month of September in which the community was given the opportunity to vote on their favorite play structures. Over 600 surveys were filled out by children and adults. The top vote getters (in order) are Global Motion, Zipkrooz, Oodle Swing, and Hemisphere Climber (pictured). The next step will be to design the playground concept, which will then go before the Planning Commission for review. While top vote-getters will be emphasized in the planning process, the planning committee must also consider how well the elements fit together with each other while providing a variety of play options. It is anticipated that the new playground will be installed in spring 2020.



Clean Air Day



The City Council proclaimed October 2nd as Clean Air Day in the City of Sebastopol. As part of the national event, the City invited residents to help out at two of the four sites where trees were being planted in town.

Public Works provided shovels and soil for attendees to use while getting their hands a little dirty and claim "hey, I helped plant that tree," bragging rights every time they drive by for years to come. Locals had the opportunity to plant a Tupelo tree in front of the Sebastopol Fire Department, as well as several Valley Oaks that were planted along Morris Street. Large Valley Oak and California Sycamore trees were also planted at Ives Park.