



May - June, 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!

New Polystyrene Ordinance in Sebastopol

Sebastopol City Council has adopted a Polystyrene Ordinance which will prohibit the use and sale of disposable food service ware and other products containing polystyrene foam. The ordinance will go into effect September 19, 2019 in order to give merchants time to deplete existing stock of these products.



The ordinance also requires 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. Look for more information in media and online in coming months to learn more about this important step in Sebastopol's mission to reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

Bus Buddies Program



Each Wednesday morning, March 20 through the month of May, riders of the free Local Shuttle #24 will have a chance to meet a local

community leader, such as Mayor Neysa Hinton and Vice Mayor Patrick Slayter who rode the bus during the month of March. The idea is to help encourage residents to use the city's public transportation, which is why this program is a perfect opportunity for new riders to try out the shuttle and for seasoned riders to meet a new friendly face. See the full schedule: <http://bit.ly/BusBuddy>

Mary Gourley Honored as California's 2019 City Clerk of the Year

The City of Sebastopol is pleased to announce that Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Mary Gourley has been recognized as City Clerk of the Year for the State of California by the 1,087-member City Clerks Association of



California (CCAC). The award is a lifetime honor recognizing City Clerk professionals who have made significant and exemplary contributions to their city, community or profession. Ms. Gourley received the award at the organization's President's Awards Banquet at its annual conference in Anaheim on April 4, 2019.

Ms. Gourley began her career with the City of Sebastopol in 1995 as Clerk to the Planning Director and Superintendent of Public Works; she was promoted to Planning Technician in 1998, and since 2006, she has been the City Clerk for the City of Sebastopol. In 2016, she was promoted to the position of Assistant City Manager/City Clerk.

She is a graduate of the inaugural class of the Sonoma County Local Leadership Academy and, in May of 2013, became Sebastopol's first City Clerk to earn the Certified Municipal Clerk designation. Three years later she achieved her Master Municipal Clerk designation, certification for which requires hundreds of hours of advanced education in the field. Fellow colleagues and staff voted Ms. Gourley City Employee of the Year in 2010 and nominated her for the same award in six of the seven preceding years.

Mary was an honored guest on the Sebastopol City Council Apple Blossom Float and will be recognized at the May 7th City Council Meeting for being named the 2019 State of California City Clerk of the Year.

Pat Schoch is a “Local Who Makes a Difference”



Pat Schoch has been chosen as the ‘Locals Who Make a Difference’ program honoree. Pat accepted the proclamation at the April 2nd City Council meeting. As a Sebastopol resident for over 50 years, Pat’s passion lies on giving back to her community by volunteering for a number of organizations in the area for most of those years; from providing

respite for caregivers through Home Hospice, to selling scrip to fundraise for her church every Sunday, to helping prepare a meal for Coastwalk hikers, to assisting clients, customers and visitors at the Church Pantry, Thrift Store, Historical Society and Center for the Arts. Learn more about Pat here: <http://bit.ly/LWMADSchoch>

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.

For more information on the program or to nominate a fellow resident, visit the City website at CityofSebastopol.org.

Peacetown Concerts Start June 12



Grab a picnic blanket and head to Ives Park to take in the sweet sounds of summer as the Peacetown Summer Concert series kicks off on June 12. Every Wednesday, through August 28, Ives Park will be filled with music and dancing alongside a variety of local wines and food trucks to enjoy while relaxing from 5-8pm. To view this summer’s music lineup, visit peacetown.org.

Pay Bills Online

The City of Sebastopol offers local residents a one stop payment portal where individuals are able to pay their bills for water, sewer service, parking tickets and business license fees. While in the portal, they will be directed to a secure, cloud-based, off-site portal where they can log in, check bills, make a payment or sign up for Auto Pay with a Credit or Debit card. Link to the payment portal here: <http://bit.ly/SebPay>.

Gravenstein Apple Fair



Sonoma County’s beloved annual **Gravenstein Apple Fair** will take place August 17-18 at Ragle Ranch Regional Park in Sebastopol. Advanced tickets and information are available at GravensteinAppleFair.com.

Spare the Air



Sebastopol is within the jurisdiction of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). For over ten years, the District has had regulations on the books controlling wood smoke. Wood-burning is significantly more polluting than a number of other forms of heating. Smoke is made up of a complex mixture of gases and fine particles produced when wood and other organic matter burn.

The biggest health threat from smoke comes from fine particles (also called particulate matter or PM). These microscopic particles get into your eyes and respiratory system, where they can cause health problems such as burning eyes, runny nose, and illnesses such as bronchitis. Fine particles can also aggravate chronic heart and lung diseases and are linked to premature deaths in people with these chronic conditions.

The Air District regulations make it illegal to burn wood or fire logs in fireplaces, woodstoves, pellet stoves, outdoor fire pits, or any other wood-burning devices when the Air District issues a Winter Spare the Air Alert. Local media publishes information on ‘no-burn days.’

For community health, please check whether it is a ‘Spare the Air’ day before you light a fire in your fireplace or wood stove. For more information or to sign up for an email Spare the Air alert, see the BAAQMD web site at www.baaqmd.gov.

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