


Agenda Report Reviewed by:  
City Manager: 

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL  
CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM

Meeting Date: April 5, 2022  
To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers  
From: City Administration  
Subject: Informational Item – Ives Pool Learn to Swim Program (Greg Jacobs)  
Recommendation: That the City Council Receive the Informational Presentation  
Funding: Currently Budgeted: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No XX N/A  
Net General Fund: N/A  
Amount: N/A  
Net General Fund Cost: N/A

Account Code/Costs authorized in City Approved Budget (if applicable) AK (verified by Administrative Services Department)

**INTRODUCTION:**

This item is for City Council receive a short informational presentation from Greg Jacobs, Learn to Swim Program.

**BACKGROUND:**

Each year the Sebastopol Rotary Club and volunteers teach area second graders how to swim at Ives Pool. This year’s Learn to Swim Program starts April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**DISCUSSION:**

Tonight’s item is to receive an informational presentation on the program from Greg Jacobs.

**CITY COUNCIL AND/OR GENERAL PLAN GOALS:**

**GOALS:**

Goal 5 - Provide Open and Responsive Municipal Government Leadership

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

As of the writing of this staff report, the City has not received any public comment. However, if staff receives public comment from interested parties following the publication and distribution of this staff report such comments will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials before or at the meeting. In addition, public comments may be offered during the public comment portion of this item.

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**

This item was noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to schedule meeting date.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact with this item tonight.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the City Council receive the short informational presentation from Mr. Jacobs.

**Attachment(s):**

Learn to Swim Program

## Teach Children How to Swim - Preventable Child Deaths

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This year because of the Covid situation we could not be sure that we would have the program, and some schools decided not to participate. However, we have 160 kids. We really need volunteers; no offer to help will be rejected. But volunteers need to be fully vaccinated, as the kids will be.

When Greg Jacobs worked in the Sonoma County District Attorney's Office, he was on a committee that reviewed all deaths in the County every month. There were too many drownings in bathtubs, swimming pools, the Russian River, The Coast, and Lake Sonoma.

**All these deaths were preventable**, and the committee took steps to publicize these local hazards, such as signs posted in English and Spanish to warn of dangerous conditions in the Russian River.

### Drowning is the second leading cause of death for kids 14 and under, nationally and worldwide.



38 Years Ago, Sebastopol Rotary Club took its own action to reduce drowning deaths by offering FREE swim lessons to all area second graders. Over 10,000 children have participated. This program is unique in the U.S., and over the years has involved hundreds of community volunteers

who help teach the kids basic swim and water safety lessons.

We also teach volunteers how to teach the basic swim lessons, and water safety.

### Child water safety researchers say that for every 100 swim lessons taught, a life is saved---you do the math.

This year over 400 kids from ten schools will head to Ives Pool, downtown Sebastopol, for their lessons beginning the week of April 25th. A former Red Cross swim instructor at Ives, Greg is looking for volunteers.

### It takes a lot of volunteers to teach 400 kids swim lessons!

The program runs between April 25th and May 19th, Monday through **Thursday**, with each child receiving a half hour lesson twice a week. The lessons are taught in half hour slots between 12 and 1:30. Half the schools come on Mondays and Wednesdays, and the others on Tuesday and Thursday. Many volunteers teach as little as a half hour lesson twice a week, but many teach more. And you don't need experience teaching swim lessons.

*"We will teach you how to teach these basic swim lessons. You just need to enjoy working with kids, and want them to be safe around the water. You will not only be helping kids stay safe, but it is a lot of fun as well."*

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REACH Group: 707-824-7311 or [che@reach49.com](mailto:che@reach49.com)

City Council Meeting Packet of: April 5, 2022

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