



City of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

www.CityofSebastopol.org

December 9 - December 15 Special Weekly Edition of
Sebastopol Community Newsletter

Please visit socoemergency.org for the most up-to-date information on the coronavirus crisis in Sonoma County.

[View as Webpage](#)

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25% MANDATORY WATER USE REDUCTION IN SEBASTOPOL



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

City offices are closed Thursday, December 22nd and Monday, December 26th for the Christmas holiday. City offices are regularly closed on Fridays.

FIRE CHIEF BILL BRAGA RETIRES AFTER 37 YEARS WITH SEBASTOPOL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Lifelong resident and community servant has served as Fire Chief since 2011

On December 15, 2022, Sebastopol City Manager Larry McLaughlin announced that after 37 years with the Sebastopol Fire Department and more than a decade serving as its Fire Chief, Bill Braga will retire on December 24, 2022.

Read the full press release [HERE](#).



WINTER HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS



Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ! More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo

nfpa.org/education ©NFPA 2019

SONOMA COUNTY WINTER SHELTERS

Information on Sonoma County's system of care partners with local service providers that will offer winter shelter bed space or other sleeping alternatives. This is in addition to year-round shelters. [English.](#) [Español.](#)

Sonoma County



Winter Shelters

CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY TIPS

Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ! **Almost one third** of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes more than **one in every five** of the fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Your Logo

www.nfpa.org/education ©NF-PA 2020

PAINT OUT HATE - COMMUNITY ART PROJECT

Let's walk our talk!

- Use your creativity to paint an expression of love, kindness, equality, social justice, and inclusivity
- Share your idea on the flyer/submission form - forms available at the Sebastopol Library, 7140 Bodega Ave., or download and print a copy **HERE: [English](#). [Español](#).**
- Those selected will be invited to a community paint party (paint party date to be announced in December)

Murals will be painted on sidewalks, at the Senior Center, the Sebastopol Regional Library, the Center for the Arts, and Ives Pool.

Submissions due January 23

Supplies provided

Open to all ages



Community Art Project

Paint Out Hate

Submissions due January 23

Supplies provided
Open to all ages

Let's walk our talk!

- 1 Use your creativity to paint an expression of love, kindness, equality, social justice, and inclusivity
- 2 Share your idea on the back of this flyer to be selected to be part of a sidewalk mural in Sebastopol
- 3 Those selected will be invited to a community paint party*

*Paint party date to be announced in December.

Murals will be painted on sidewalks, at the Senior Center, the Sebastopol Regional Library, the Sebastopol Center for the Arts, and Ives Pool.

SONOMA COUNTY LIBRARY BIBLIOTECA | SEBASTOPOL REGIONAL LIBRARY
7140 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol
(707) 823-7691
sonomalibrary.org

This project is supported by the City of Sebastopol.

Brought to you by the Measure Y sales tax.

Examples of mural ideas shown on the flyer include: 'Love Trumps Hate', a rainbow, 'Be KIND', 'Paint Out Hate', a peace sign with a rainbow, 'PEACE', and 'Spread Love'.

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.

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL RECRUITING MAYORS & COUNCIL MEMBERS ASSOCIATION OF SONOMA COUNTY CLERK

The City of Sebastopol has been tasked with searching/recruitment for a Mayors & Council Members Association of Sonoma County Clerk.

The focus of the Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Association (MCA) has been the exchange of ideas among fellow elected officials - both by educational presentations and by providing an opportunity to network with peers. The MCA Board of Directors (Board) also makes appointments to select regional bodies, as well as serving as the City Selection Committee for Sonoma County, as required under Government Code §50270. The MCA Board and General Membership meetings are held quarterly, per the current by-laws. The MCA also has a Legislative Committee.



- [Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Association Clerk Position](#)
- [Agreement for Professional Services - City of Sebastopol MCA Clerk](#)

WATER SAVINGS THAT WILL MAKE YOU ENJOY WASHING THE DISHES

Join City of Sebastopol's Water Upgrades Save program to save water and money right away!

Our qualified contractor installs water and energy efficient upgrades like high-efficiency toilets, showerheads, and aerators. You start saving right away!



City of Sebastopol customers are saving an average of 20 percent on annual utility costs when they upgrade! ¹

Follow the steps below:

1. Visit www.waterupgradessave.org to enroll.
2. Schedule a free home assessment to learn about your potential water savings.
3. Choose your upgrades including high-efficiency toilets, showerheads, and aerators.
4. Schedule your installation with a qualified program contractor.
5. Begin saving water and money right away.

Enroll now at www.waterupgradessave.org

¹Actual savings will vary based on measures installed and customer water use.

FALL/WINTER WATER CONSERVATION TIP

Water savings are urgently needed. See the City's [Water Conservation page](#) for actions you can take to reduce water usage and check out these indoor and outdoor water conservation tips from the [Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership](#).

Here's a fall/winter tip to help you reduce your water consumption:

- **Insulate your pipes. We waste a lot of water waiting for the shower water to turn hot, especially in the colder months. Insulating pipes can help avoid water waste as insulating promotes faster heating. It's critical that we all do our part to save water.**



CURRENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Police Department

[Police Officer \(Lateral/Academy Graduate\)](#)

Deadline to Apply: January 11, 2023 at 11:59pm

See the city [website](#) for additional information and requirements on these current opportunities to participate in the



COVID-19 INFO & RESOURCES

COUNTY OF SONOMA

COVID-19 TESTING LOCATIONS

Free, convenient, confidential COVID-19 testing is available to all Sonoma County residents, regardless of document status

See the [SoCoEmergency Testing](#) page for testing information.

CITY NEWS

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 December 20, 2022 @ 6:00 PM](#)

Planning Commission Meetings:

- **Meeting Days:** Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month
- **Meeting Time:** 6pm
- **Livestream Link:** <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>
- To submit comments before meeting, send an email to kvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.org

- **Next Meeting:** [Planning Commission Meeting of December 27, 2022 @ 6:00 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 kvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.org

- **Next Meeting:** [Design Review Board Meeting of December 21, 2022 @ 4:00 PM](#)

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 kvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.org

- **Next Meeting:** There are currently no meetings scheduled.

Climate Action Committee Meetings:

- **Meeting Days:** Second and Fourth Wednesday of each month
- **Meeting Time:** 3:30pm
- **Livestream Link:** <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>
- To submit comments before meeting, send an email to kvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.org

- **Next Meeting:** [Climate Action Committee Meeting of December 28, 2022 @ 3:30 PM](#)



Contact Us



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707-823-1153

www.CityofSebastopol.org

City of Sebastopol | 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472

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