



January-February, 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!

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR!



A Message from Incoming Mayor Patrick Slayer

As I unexpectedly begin this year as Sebastopol's Mayor, I look towards the work ahead; housing, health, infrastructure, cost of living issues, social services and support, climate change, and budget constraints.

But we are also living in a time where technology, intelligence and the human spirit are reawakening. Youth and inexperience are not a liability; they are simply a different lens to view the world through. As heavy as the current load seems to be, I have hope in the upcoming generation's ability to connect, to communicate and to work together.

By working together, we can take meaningful steps as we begin a new year, working on issues important to us locally in Sebastopol and working on issues that face us from beyond our city limits. This is about us working together on things that are important to us as a community. Let's all donate passionately of our time, our money, our energy, and our knowledge towards causes important to us. Let's take a stand when needed about bigger things like civil rights, student safety and climate change. Let's work together on local issues like traffic, maintaining our streets, providing supportive services to the shelterless, and reducing waste. Let's also remember to celebrate the richness and depth of our shared community here in Sebastopol.



The Sebastopol City Council will gather (virtually) for a goals "retreat" in early January which will be followed by a City Council Goals and Priority Meeting in February. Stay tuned for more information by checking the [City website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

Outgoing Mayor Una Glass Looks Back on 2021

Outgoing Mayor Una Glass thanked the public, colleagues on the Council, City staff, friends, and family for their support and highlighted some of the Council's accomplishments over the past year in a number of areas including:



- **Policing:** Review of the City's Police Department practices and policies/hiring of new Chief of Police Kevin Kilgore who is prioritizing community-oriented policing and outreach.
- **Health & Safety:** Supporting County COVID safety measures, updating the Emergency Operations Manual, and making progress on the Map Your Neighborhood emergency preparedness program.
- **Homelessness:** Elderberry Commons, a state and county funded initiative providing shelter for COVID vulnerable formerly unhoused, Sebastopol's Park Village which helps primarily unhoused families get back on their feet, West County Community Services contract for an outreach worker who works with SPD to help connect the unhoused with services and housing, and initiating a program with SAVS to set up a safe parking village for individuals living in vehicles and RVs.
- **Financial Stability:** Starting Relaunch Sebastopol, a program to promote the City and its businesses, funding a municipal finance consultant to explore how the city can better manage its financial future, and reform its budget process, as well as other initiatives.
- **Climate Change and Environment:** Continuing the work of the City's Climate Action and Zero Waste committees, declaring a Stage 2 Water emergency in response to the drought, and implementing the BayRen program for residents.

SB1383 Rolls Out to Reduce Waste



A new state law based on Senate Bill (SB) 1383 goes into effect on Jan 1, 2022, and it is the most aggressive waste reduction law to be adopted in California for the past 30 years. The law aims to slow climate change by drastically reducing methane emissions from land-filled organic materials such as food, plant trimmings, and paper products. All residents and businesses are required to properly separate organic materials from the garbage so that they can be composted instead. In addition, large food producing businesses such as grocery stores must donate excess food to feed people and decrease food insecurity. For more information, visit www.zerowastesonoma.gov/sb1383

Open Policing Platform Launches

The Sebastopol Police Department (SPD) is teaming with Openpolicing.org to create increased transparency and provide our community with greater insight to SPD interactions. Openpolicing.org is a platform that allows people who interact with SPD personnel to provide feedback about the interaction in a timely manner. All interactions will provide those we interact with the opportunity to utilize a QR code or website to provide feedback. Learn more on Sebastopol Police Department pages of the City website or type the word transparency in the search bar.



2021 Years of Service Awards

MARCH

Mitchell Lamb - Fire Department - 20 Yrs

APRIL

Joseph Pogar, Jr. - Fire Department - 20 Yrs

MAY

Richard Ressler - Fire Department - 15 Yrs

JULY

Margarito Roman - Public Works Department - 25 Yrs

SEPTEMBER

Dante Del Prete - Public Works Department - 25 Yrs

Amy Soria - Police Department - 5 Yrs

OCTOBER

Shawn-Paul O'Dell - Fire Department - 20 Yrs

DECEMBER

Christopher Mooney - Police Department - 25 Yrs



Stay Up-to-Date on Covid-19

Please visit SocoEmergency.org frequently for the most current information.



Read Sonoma County's Health Orders and Recommendations at: socoemergency.org/emergency/novel-coronavirus/health-orders/.

For information on COVID-19 and local vaccination clinics, visit SoCoEmergency.org/vaccine.

California's Drought Continues

Visit the Water Conservation Page on the City Website to learn more about protecting and preserving our region's precious water resources.



New Website Feature

You can now subscribe to email or text notifications when updates are made to the City website on topics of interest to you. Sign up here:

<https://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/signup>