



# City of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

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December 1 - December 7 Edition of  
Sebastopol Community Newsletter

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Photo by Laura Hagar

## SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL ELECTS NEW MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR

At the opening of its October 5th meeting, the Sebastopol City Council elected Vice Mayor Diana Gardner Rich as mayor and Councilmember Stephen Zollman as vice mayor for the next year. Outgoing Mayor Neysa Hinton, who will now serve as a regular city councilmember, delivered parting remarks reflecting upon the achievements and challenges of the past year.

In Mayor Rich's incoming message as Sebastopol's new mayor she stated, "I love this city council and I will be happy to lead them into this next year...I feel like I've had incredible training being the vice mayor—thank you, Mayor [Hinton]—and also feel that it's an opportunity to take the various skills that this city has allowed me to develop in the last four years."

The City of Sebastopol thanks Neysa Hinton for her leadership and service as mayor over the past year.



***L to R: Mayor Diana Gardner Rich and Vice Mayor Stephen Zollman***



***Outgoing Mayor/Councilmember Neysa Hinton***



*L to R: Outgoing Mayor/Councilmember Neysa Hinton, Mayor Diana Gardner Rich, Vice Mayor Stephen Zollman and Councilmember Sandra Maurer*

## **HELP SEBASTOPOL UPDATE ITS BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN - DEC. 14TH**

The Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) is currently creating the Sonoma County Active Transportation Plan (ATP) previously known as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The ATP will focus on increasing access to active transportation modes by planning for infrastructure projects and supportive programs. Active transportation comes in various forms including cycling, walking, and rolling. SCTA is partnering with Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Rohnert Park, Sebastopol, Sonoma, and Unincorporated Sonoma County to create a community-informed Active Transportation Plan.



The City of Sebastopol Planning Department, in collaboration with Analy High School Integrated Climate Studies & AHS Social Studies Department, Bike Sebastopol, Sebastopol Carbon Conversations, will be holding an additional outreach event to gather information from the public to include their thoughts, ideas, and recommendations for the Sebastopol specific ATP. The planning team needs your input to identify needs, barriers, and opportunities to ensure a successful ATP and extends this invitation to youth and school communities (both students and faculty) as well as the general public. \*As part of the data collection we are encouraging participants to bring a smartphone or laptop for real time polling/survey input. \*

### **Event Information**

**Location:** Analy High School, Student Center RM SC7.

(Parking on the street or in the parking lot)

**Date:** Thursday December 14th, 2023

**Time:** 2:50pm to 4:20pm

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## WATER BILL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE



Funding is now available for water bill assistance in Sebastopol through North Coast Energy Services. This local service provider offers residential water and sewer bill assistance to low-income households in Sebastopol through the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP).

Click [HERE](#) to apply for a one-time water/sewer financial assistance.

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## LAURALEE AHO, ZERO WASTE SUPERHERO

Lauralee Aho is Sebastopol's first Zero Waste Superhero. This new series is authored by the Zero Waste Working Group of the Climate Action Committee.

Lauralee Aho contributes greatly to the welfare and quality of life of the residents of Burbank Heights and Orchards, a low-income senior community of over 200 residents here in Sebastopol. She is coordinator of the residents' group, a prime mover in all art-related activities and involved in almost everything happening at BHO. One of her greatest contributions is managing our Zero Waste Shed. We have had the Zero Waste Shed for close to two years. Lauralee personally takes most of the recyclables to be recycled. Residents bring many kinds of recyclables to the shed. They are collected in the shed and then properly recycled.



Read the full article on the City's website [HERE](#).

If you know a Sebastopol Zero Waste Superhero we could feature in an article, please contact us at [ClimateActionCommittee@cityofsebastopol.gov](mailto:ClimateActionCommittee@cityofsebastopol.gov).



**Zero Waste Hint:** Take your used batteries and ink cartridges to Sebastopol Hardware, an easy way to properly dispose of these hazardous waste items. Big thanks to the Zero Waste Heroes at Sebastopol Hardware.

## 18TH ANNUAL BUCKET BRIGADE BLOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE - DECEMBER 12TH

It's time for the 18th Annual Bucket Brigade Blood Drive Challenge! The Bucket Brigade is a friendly competition between local fire departments.

Be a donor in this life saving challenge!

### **Sebastopol Fire Station**

**Location:** 7425 Bodega Ave, Sebastopol, CA 95472

**Date:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023

**Time:** 12:00 pm – 5:15 pm

**Appointment Link:** [Click Here to Donate Blood on December 12th](#)

# BLOOD DRIVE

18th Annual Bucket Brigade Challenge



## Sebastopol Fire Department

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

12:00 pm – 5:15 pm

**Sebastopol Fire Station - Truck Bay**

7425 Bodega Ave.

Sebastopol, CA 95472



All donors receive a Bucket Brigade T-shirt as our thank you.



Scan to  
make an  
appointment

The **Bucket Brigade** is a friendly competition among local fire departments to see which can host the largest blood drive.

**Appointments encouraged.**

For more information or to schedule a donation, call 877-258-4825 or visit us at [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org)

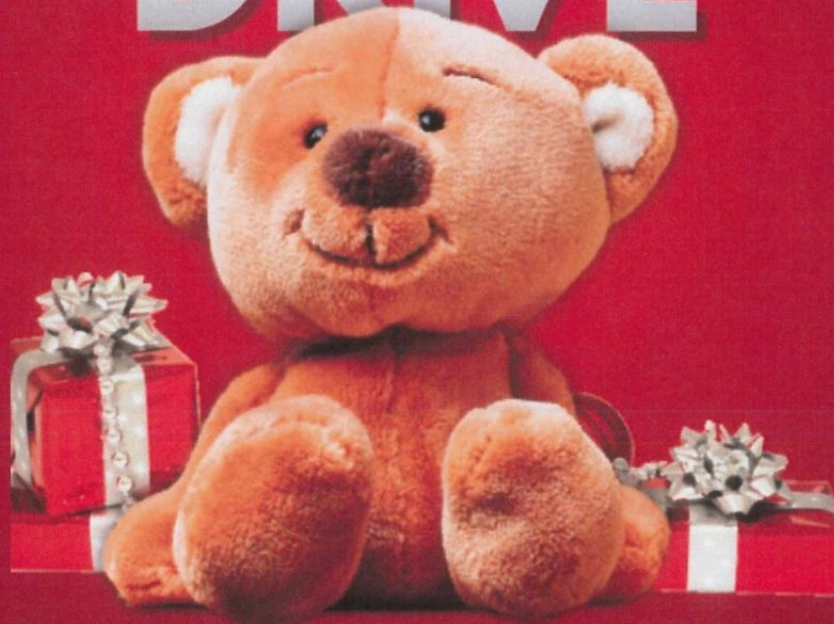
vitalant.

## SEBASTOPOL FIRE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

The Sebastopol Fire Department is holding their annual toy drive. Drop off new toys, art supplies, books, and gift cards to the firehouse at **7425 Bodega Ave.** during normal office business hours (**Mon. - Thurs. 7am to 5:30pm**) through **Thursday, December 21, 2023**. All toys and gifts should be unwrapped.

SEBASTOPOL FIRE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL

# TOY DRIVE



PLEASE DROP OFF NEW TOYS, ART SUPPLIES,  
BOOKS, GIFT CARDS

7425 BODEGA AVENUE, SEBASTOPOL

Images with Firestormy.com

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**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.



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## 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

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## UPCOMING MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS (MYN) CLASSES

### MYN Classes

Being prepared together

Classes are on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm.

### Upcoming Classes

- December 20, 2023

Sign up for an upcoming MYN class [HERE](#).

See the [SebastopolReady Calendar](#) for a



# MYN

complete list of classes.  
Learn more about the MYN program and classes [HERE](#).

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## DON'T FORGET TO SHOP LOCAL!



The holiday season is always a critical time for shops and restaurants.

Between the long-established local businesses that you love and notable newcomers, there's no need to venture far afield to enjoy holiday outings or discover the perfect gifts for holiday giving.

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## CALL FOR ARTISTS: SOUTH ENTRY SCULPTURE



The City of Sebastopol and its Public Arts Committee (PAC) is seeking proposals from professional artists & artist teams living in the State of California for the design, fabrication, and installation of a permanent, original public art suitable for placement at the trailhead of the Joe Rodota Trail on Petaluma Avenue, which also marks the entry to Sebastopol's downtown. The commissioned art will have a budget of \$25,000 from the City's Art in-lieu fund.

**Submission Deadline:** January 29, 2024

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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## CITY MEETINGS

All meetings will be held both in-person and virtually and are open to the public to attend.

Meetings will be held at the Sebastopol Youth Annex, 425 Morris Street, Sebastopol, CA 95472, and are open for in-person attendance.

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 both in-person and virtually in real time when this feature is available.

### City Council Meetings:

- **Meeting Days:** First and Third Tuesday of each month
- **Meeting Time:** 6pm
- **Meeting Location:** Sebastopol Youth Annex, 425 Morris St., Sebastopol, CA
- **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.gov](mailto:mgourley@cityofsebastopol.gov)
  - **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.gov](mailto:mgourley@cityofsebastopol.gov)

**Next Regular City Council Meeting:** [City Council Meeting of December 19, 2023 @ 6:00 PM](#)

### Planning Commission Meetings:

- **Meeting Days:** Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month
- **Meeting Time:** 6pm
- **Meeting Location:** Sebastopol Youth Annex, 425 Morris St., Sebastopol, CA
- **Livestream Link:** <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>
- To submit comments before meeting, send an email to [kvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.gov](mailto:kvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.gov)

**Next Meeting:** [Planning Commission Meeting of December 12, 2023 @ 6:00 PM](#)

### Design Review Board Meetings:

- **Meeting Days:** Fourth Tuesday of each month
- **Meeting Time:** 3:30pm
- **Meeting Location:** Sebastopol Youth Annex, 425 Morris St., Sebastopol, CA

- **Livestream Link:** <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>
- To submit comments before meeting, send an email to [jjay@cityofsebastopol.gov](mailto:jjay@cityofsebastopol.gov)
- Next Meeting: [Special Design Review Board Meeting of December 19, 2023 @ 3:30 PM](#)

**Public Arts Committee Meetings:**

- **Meeting Days:** Second Tuesday of each month
- **Meeting Time:** 1pm
- **Meeting Location:** Sebastopol Youth Annex, 425 Morris St., Sebastopol, CA
- **Livestream Link:** <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>
- To submit comments before meeting, send an email to [ksvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.gov](mailto:ksvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.gov)
- **Next Meeting:** [Public Arts Committee Meeting of December 12, 2023 @ 1:00 PM](#)

**Climate Action Committee Meetings:**

- **Meeting Days:** Second Tuesday of each month
- **Meeting Time:** 3pm
- **Meeting Location:** Sebastopol Youth Annex, 425 Morris St., Sebastopol, CA
- **Livestream Link:** <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>
- To submit comments before meeting, send an email to [jjay@cityofsebastopol.gov](mailto:jjay@cityofsebastopol.gov)
- **Next Meeting:** [Climate Action Committee Meeting of December 12, 2023 @ 3:00 PM](#)



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

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**LUNCH WITH A CITY COUNCILMEMBER - DEC. 13TH**



The Sebastopol Area Senior Center welcomes Vice Mayor Stephen Zollman to the Harvest Cafe on December 13th. We hope you will sit at his table or stop by the table to say hello or ask a question.

***Lunch is \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members.***

Click [HERE](#) for more info about the Harvest Cafe.

Contact Us



7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472

707-823-1153

[www.CityofSebastopol.gov](http://www.CityofSebastopol.gov)

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