



# City of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

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

## January 5 Edition of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

[View as Webpage](#)

**KNOW SOMEONE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER? FORWARD THIS EMAIL.**

**WAS THIS EMAIL FORWARDED TO YOU BY SOMEONE ELSE?**

[Click Here To  
Subscribe](#)



## **NEW FACES AND NEWS ROLES FOR SEBASTOPOL TEAM**

The new year brings a changing of the guard among our city's leadership. In December, the City Council selected Diana Rich as mayor and Stephen Zollman as vice mayor. Both are serving in their roles for the first time. Don

Schwartz, previously assistant city manager for Rohnert Park, takes the reins from Sebastopol's longtime City Manager Larry McLaughlin, who will retain his role as city attorney. Read more about the team below and visit the city website for complete bios.

---

## SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL ELECTS NEW MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR

At its December 5 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 will now serve as a regular city councilmember.

Mayor Rich has been active in local community service for over twenty years including seven years as the executive director of the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center. She was elected to the City Council in 2020 and served as vice mayor in 2023. This is her first term as mayor.



Vice Mayor Zollman is a social justice attorney, former San Francisco Public Defender, and American Bar Association Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Commissioner. He was elected to the City Council in 2022. This is his first term as vice mayor.

---

## DON SCHWARTZ IS SEBASTOPOL'S NEW CITY MANAGER



The City of Sebastopol welcomes Don Schwartz as its new city manager. Mr. Schwartz previously served as the assistant city manager of Rohnert Park since April of 2014, where he provided leadership to successfully attract new businesses to the city, contributed to balanced budgets each year, helped to establish a positive working environment, and increased community engagement.

Mr. Schwartz has almost thirty years' experience working in government, community service and nonprofit leadership, including nine years with the County Administrator's Office for the County of Sonoma. Additionally, his background includes twenty years managing complex budgets emphasizing fiscal responsibility, balanced budgets, healthy reserves, leveraging resources, and long-term financial planning, all of which are valued assets as Sebastopol navigates challenging financial times. Mr. Schwartz holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master of Public

## SAFE MEDICINE DISPOSAL BOXES

Visit [safemedicinedisposal.org](http://safemedicinedisposal.org) to find drop off locations and learn more.



**Safe Medicine Disposal Boxes are located at select CVS, Rite Aid, Safeway, Lucky, local independent pharmacies, health centers and police stations.**




**SAFEMEDICINEDISPOSAL.ORG**




**SAFEMEDICINE**  
DISPOSAL PROGRAM

**FIND DROP OFF LOCATIONS, AND LEARN MORE:**  
**SAFEMEDICINEDISPOSAL.ORG**



**Hay buzones para la eliminación segura de medicamentos en CVS, Rite Aid, Safeway, Lucky, farmacias locales independientes, centros de salud y estaciones de policía.**



**SAFEMEDICINEDISPOSAL.ORG**



**SAFEMEDICINE**  
DISPOSAL PROGRAM

**ENCUENTRE LAS UBICACIONES PARA DESECHAR LOS MEDICAMENTOS Y OBTENGA MÁS INFORMACIÓN:**  
**SAFEMEDICINEDISPOSAL.ORG**



## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING





Sebastopol residents can dispose of Christmas trees to be recycled in a bin located in the city parking area to the rear of the Sebastopol Youth Annex at 425 Morris Street. Trees must be natural, unflocked and undecorated. Artificial trees are not accepted.

---

## 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.

---

## 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.

---

## PROTECT BACKYARD FLOCKS FROM AVIAN FLU

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors has declared an emergency following detection of avian influenza at two local poultry farms.



Poultry producers and backyard flock and pet bird owners are urged to increase their biosecurity practices, including wearing clean or dedicated shoes and clothing, washing hands and preventing or limiting visitors to poultry and bird areas in order to reduce the risk of accidental exposure to the virus.

Get more information and read the full press release [HERE](#).

---

## CITY NEWS

---

### 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 January 16, 2024 @ 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 January 9, 2024 @ 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: [Design Review Board Meeting of January 23, 2024 @ 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 January 9, 2024 @ 1:00 PM has been CANCELLED.](#)

### 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 January 9, 2024 @ 3:00 PM has been CANCELLED.](#)



---

## COMMUNITY NEWS

---

### JOIN THE WINTER READING CHALLENGE

The logo for Sonoma County Library Biblioteca, featuring a stylized book and the text 'SONOMA COUNTY LIBRARY BIBLIOTECA'.

**WINTER READING CHALLENGE**  
**RETO DE LECTURA DE INVIERNO**

★ **DEC. 1 - Jan. 12** ★  
**1 DE DIC. - 12 DE ene.**

The graphic has a dark blue background with decorative red and yellow floral patterns at the top and bottom.

There's still time to join the Sonoma County Library's Winter Reading Challenge. The challenge involves completing lotería-style reading activities to

win a limited edition pop-it flyer or an insulated lunch bag. Those who complete 16 activities will also be entered into the grand prize drawing for a Nintendo Switch! Learn more [HERE](#).

Contact Us



7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472

707-823-1153

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

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

[Unsubscribe info@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:info@cityofsebastopol.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [info@cityofsebastopol.gov](mailto:info@cityofsebastopol.gov)