



February - March, 2024

The City of Sebastopol community newsletter is one way to stay in touch with what's going on in Sebastopol. Our web site, CityofSebastopol.gov 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!

A Message from New City Manager Don Schwartz

I would like to thank the City Council, Sebastopol residents and businesses, and the City staff for the warm welcome to this wonderful community. I am thrilled and honored to be your new City Manager. I bring a business mindset and a passion for public service.



Since starting on January 3 I've focused on listening and learning. From numerous conversations I've identified some top priorities:

- Addressing the City's overall financial situation, which is not good.
- Digging into the financial condition of our water and sewer systems, which are particularly challenging.
- Assessing the state of our Fire Department and the possibility of consolidating with a nearby District.
- Negotiating with Recology, our hauler for garbage and recycling, with the goal of avoiding a major increase in their rates.
- Bringing the Horizon Shine safe parking site to a successful closure.

As I told the City Council when I was hired, I will always make recommendations to them based on the long-term best interests of the residents and businesses of Sebastopol. I pledge to work with the Council following my values of integrity, fiscal responsibility, and collaboration.

Todd Derum is Serving as Sebastopol's New Interim Fire Chief

New Interim Fire Chief Todd Derum has over 35 years of experience in firefighting. His last permanent position was Division Chief for CAL FIRE operations for Sonoma County. Read more about Interim Fire Chief Derum's background in a recent



Sebastopol Times article here: <https://bit.ly/3vCHvKp>

New Water Meters and App Offer Customers Enhanced Insights Into Their Water Usage



EyeOnWater[®]

With the installation of new cellular water meters in Sebastopol, municipal water customers can now have instant access to, and greater control over, their water usage through the accompanying EyeOnWater app. They can also be alerted to leaks in real time. Signup options:

- Sign up on the EyeOnWater signup page at <https://eyeonwater.com/signup> Download to mobile devices via the Apple App Store for iPhones or Google Play for Androids
- Detailed instructions for account setup on City's website on Utilities or Water Conservation tab.

Safe Medication Disposal



Please don't flush unused medications down the toilet or throw them in the trash.

The City of Sebastopol is partnering with the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) to get the word out about the importance of safely disposing of unused

medications to help keep our waterways and wildlife healthy. Recent studies show that pharmaceuticals in rivers and streams, if present at high enough concentrations, can harm aquatic wildlife. When flushed down the drain, some medications are not completely removed by wastewater treatment plants and are discharged to surface waters.

Residents of Sonoma and Mendocino County can dispose of their unused, expired, or otherwise unwanted medications free of charge via free mail-in envelopes and at participating take-back locations including the Sebastopol Police Station. Protect your family and the environment by properly disposing of your unwanted medications. Learn more at [SafeMedicineDisposal.org](https://www.SafeMedicineDisposal.org)

Sebastopol Climate Action Committee Zero Waste Superhero Series

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.

Read the full article on Lauralee on the City's website [HERE: https://bit.ly/3TfkjU](https://bit.ly/3TfkjU)

Do you know a Sebastopol Zero Waste Superhero? Contact us at 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.



Coming Up in April: 78th Annual Apple Blossom Parade and Festival

April 27th & 28th, 2024

<https://www.appleblossomfest.com/>

Are You Flood Ready?

Winter rain and storms can bring the potential for flooding and it's important to be Flood Ready. Community preparedness and resident responsibility are key to preparing for potential floods.



What can you do now to prepare?

- Find out if you live in or near a flood zone
- Have a personal/family emergency plan
- Have personal/family/pet disaster kits prepared
- REMEMBER: Turn around, don't drown

Check out <https://socoemergency.org/get-ready/> and <https://myhazards.caloes.ca.gov> for more information on preparing for floods and other disasters.

Coffee with a Council Member



Connecting with the community is a goal of everyone on the Sebastopol City Council. Mayor Diana Gardner Rich and Vice Mayor Stephen Zollman have decided to take that to heart with the "Coffee with a Council Member" series.

Mayor Diana Gardner Rich kicked off the series in January. Upcoming dates are slated for the last Wednesday of each month from 10am-11:30am. Locations will rotate among various coffee shops in town. The City Council hopes to schedule in as many of the council members as possible over the course of the year. One or more council members will be there to share coffee and conversation.

Come buy a cup of coffee and join the conversation. Ask questions, share your thoughts and ideas. Enjoy a Wednesday morning and some good company at one of our great coffee shops. See you there!

Upcoming Coffee with a Council Member Dates:

- Wed Feb 28. Join Vice Mayor Stephen Zollman at Brew Brothers Coffee (962 Gravenstein Highway South) from 10am to 11:30am.
- Wed Mar 27. Join Councilmember Sandra Maurer at Coffee & Moore (6761 Sebastopol Ave) from 10am to 11:30am.